

Ennahdha Party

Fortnightly Tunisia Newsletter

Issue 4 / January 13, 2015

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Recent Highlights

- [Ennahdha Party Consultative Council 34th Session Statement](#)
- [Ennahdha Statement on Charlie Hebdo attack](#)
- [Interview with Rached Ghannouchi in Quantara.de](#)
- [The Economist magazine votes Tunisia "Country of the Year"](#)
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- [Beji Caid Essebsi sworn in as Tunisian president](#)
- [Habib Essid nominated as Tunisian prime minister](#)

Ennahdha Updates

[Ennahdha Party Consultative Council 34th Session Statement](#)

The Consultative Council held its 34th session on January 10-11, in which it discussed a number of important national and party issues. Following presentation of the outcome of political contacts made by the party leadership in the previous period, and following discussion of reports and proposals, the Council expressed:

- Its satisfaction with the transition process following two successful elections.
- Its belief in the importance of the new phase for consolidating the foundations of democracy
- Its appreciation of the consultations initiated by the Prime Minister-Designate
- The Party's willingness to participate in the government if it receives an official offer and if agreement is reached on the new government's programme and priorities.
- Its concern about the fate of the two Tunisian journalists Sofiene Chourabi and Nedhir Ktari who are being held in Libya by unknown parties.
- Its condemnation of the terrorist attack on the headquarters of the French paper Charlie Hebdo and subsequent deadly attacks leading to the killing of many victims. The Council expressed concern at the spreading acts of violence and hate, and called for the uniting of all efforts and cooperation of all parties in order to effectively stand against them.

[Statement on Charlie Hebdo attack](#)

The Ennahdha party is horrified and outraged by this cowardly and criminal act against Charlie Hebdo journalists and staff on the morning of Wednesday January 7th, as well as the follow up attacks on the wider public. We condemn in the strongest terms these terrorist acts, their perpetrators, and those who support them. We express our full support and solidarity with the victims, their families, and the French people. Our most sincere condolences go out to the families and friends of the victims and to those injured we wish a speedy recovery.



[Interview with Rached Ghannouchi in Quantara.de](#)

Following on from winning the 2014 Ibn Rushd Prize, Rached Ghannouchi spoke to Daniel Bax and Tsafrir Cohen about Tunisia's liberal constitution and Tunisia's pioneering role in the Arab world. He concluded that the recent successes of the country highlight the compatibility of Islam and democracy, and that the successful democratic development of the country will stop terrorism and extremism from evolving in Tunisia.

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[Ennahdha Assembly Group meeting](#)

Ennahdha Assembly Group met on Jan. 5-6 to discuss the next Consultative Council Meeting, the organization of the parliamentary group and its office, the rules of procedures, as well as updates concerning the formation of a Government.



In the News

[The Economist magazine votes Tunisia "Country of the Year"](#)

Despite arguing that it has been a bad year for nation-states, *The Economist* magazine voted Tunisia as its 2014 Country of the Year. It was stated that "symbolism matters more than size," and Tunisia was described as a shining exception to a region still deeply troubled by the effects of the Arab Spring. Tunisia's new constitution and its successful parliamentary and presidential elections were cited as the main reasons behind the country's success. The article concluded that "Tunisia's pragmatism and moderation have nurtured hope in a wretched region and a troubled world."

[Washington Post op-ed: Give democratic Tunisia the U.S. support it needs and deserves](#)

Vance Serchuk, an adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, wrote about the need for Tunisia to gain greater support from western nations such as the US. He argued that "Tunisia is rightly hailed as the lone success story of the Arab Spring", but that the future of freedom in Tunisia is far from assured. He noted that "special credit goes to Ennahdha" for voluntarily leaving office, something no ruling Party had done before, and questioned whether Tunisia's secularists could practice the restraint, tolerance and inclusivity that Ennahdha demonstrated. He concluded that the "United States needs to put forward a multi-year package of economic, security, trade and governance support for Tunisia — including low-cost but potentially high-yield investments in the workings of new democratic institutions such as the parliament."

[National Geographic Traveller magazine votes Tunis in its top 20 travel destinations](#)

According to the article, "the coils of the ancient medina and the colonial grid of the early 20th century French city tell other chapters of Tunis's story of conquest, resistance, flux, and assimilation, from mythic Dido to the Jasmine Revolution of 2011."

[The Carter Center: Tunisia elects president in successful and transparent electoral process](#)

The Carter Center observer reports indicated that Tunisia successfully completed its first democratic election cycle under the new constitution. The Center noted that the country's transition "represents the brightest hope in the region for a successful and peaceful transition following the Arab revolutions." It called on the new president, parliamentarians and future government to now fulfill the promise of the revolution and the expectations raised by the elections.

[The New York Times Editorial: Tunisia wins again](#)

The editorial board at the *New York Times* reported after the December 21 election that Tunisia took another step on its transition to democracy and remains a symbol of hope and sanity in a region "consumed by chaos and dominated by authoritarian governments." It said Mr. Essebsi's next challenge will be cooperating with Ennahdha, "which has worked hard to prove that Islam and democracy can coexist."

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[Beji Caid Essebsi sworn in as Tunisian president](#)

Beji Caid Essebsi was sworn in as Tunisian president on December 31st, giving the country a democratically elected leader four years after an uprising ousted Ben Ali. Essebsi won 56 percent of the vote in the run-off against 44 percent for the incumbent Moncef Marzouki. As Reuters noted, with successful free elections and a new constitution, Tunisia has been held up as a model for democratic change and compromise between its secular and Islamist factions in a region beset by chaos and violence.



[Habib Essid nominated as Tunisian prime minister](#)

Habib Essid, a US-educated agricultural economist, was nominated as Tunisian Prime Minister on January 5. Essid will now appoint a government that must then be approved by a vote in the parliament. With this, Tunisia will complete its political transition into democracy.

International response to Tunisia's successful Presidential Elections

- **President Obama** hailed the election as "a vital step toward the completion of Tunisia's momentous transition to democracy". [According to the White House](#), the President "commended Tunisians for the spirit of peaceful compromise that has prevailed throughout their historic democratic transition of the last four years."
- **Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon** commended the Tunisian people on the successful holding of the second round of presidential elections on December 21. "This historic event is a critical step in the country's transition and a clear demonstration of the people's desire for accountable and representative government," said a statement issued by Mr. Ban's spokesman. He reiterated the UN's will to keep on supporting the Tunisian authorities as they tackle the challenges the country is facing and pursue the process of democratic consolidation and economic development.
- **French President Francois Hollande** praised Tunisians for their "determination, sense of responsibility and spirit of compromise." He also congratulated the government led by Mr. Mehdi Jomaa and the Independent High Authority for Elections, which made an essential contribution to the success of the electoral process.
- The **UK Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond**, commended the Tunisian people's "commitment to the democratic process." He stated that "the strong turnout for the presidential and legislative elections clearly demonstrates Tunisia's wish for a representative and democratic government."
- The **German Foreign Minister Steinmeier** issued a statement that "with this run-off election, Tunisia has brought the country's transition to democracy to a preliminary conclusion." He argued that a great deal has been achieved since the revolution at the beginning of 2011: "the country has adopted a modern democratic constitution, established a new parliament and elected a new president."

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Social Media

[Ennahdha Party @EnnahdhaParty](#)

#Ennahdha Council concerned about spreading acts of violence and hate, calls for cooperation of all parties to stand against them. #France

[Katie Bentivoglio @ktbentivoglio](#)

Are #NidaaTounes and #Ennahda headed for reconciliation? My latest on #Tunisia
<http://t.co/BVgzLVZGXc>

[President Obama's National Security Council @NSCPress](#)

President Obama called #Tunisia President Essebsi to congratulate him on his victory in 1st pres election under Tunisia's new constitution

[Vance Serchuk \(Washington Post\) @vanceserchuk](#)

Will the Arab Spring's sole success story stay on track? My [@washingtonpost](#) oped on how the US can help #Tunisia: <http://wapo.st/178pZxh>

[The Economist @TheEconomist](#)

We have chosen Tunisia as our country of the year. Mabrouk, Tunisia! <http://econ.st/1z0vKDx>

[WorldPoliticsReview @wpreview](#)

Essebsi will not be able to secure Tunisia's transition alone; he needs to reach out to his rivals in Ennahda.
<http://wpr.vu/H3AZx>

[NDI @NDI](#)

.@NDI #TnPrez Election Delegation Member [@VanceSerchuk](#) identifies 3 areas to support democracy in #Tunisia: https://www.ndi.org/news_and_views

[Ennahdha Party tweeted at 10:21 am on Sat, Jan 10, 2015@EnnahdhaParty](#)



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Suiv

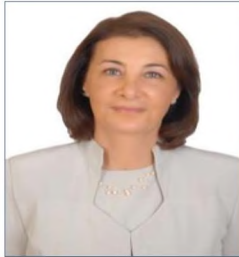
Sincere condolences to family of Tunisian young man Yoav Hattab victim of supermarket shooting in #France & all victims of this heinous crime

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Portrait of the Week: Aroua Ben Abbes



Aroua Ben Abbes was born in Bardo and studied in Tunis. She studied in the Technological Institute of Architecture Art and Urbanism of Tunis, and created her Research Centre in 1991 in Tunis, dedicating her career to this project. She was active during the revolution, and when not protesting, she was stuck in front of her computer sharing the moments that made the Jasmine Revolution.

Even though her family is inspired by the values and principles of Ennahdha, she decided in the 2011 elections to be a candidate on the Tarik Essalama (Independent Democratic Coalition) list.

In 2012 she held membership in Ennahdha party and became a member of the Ennahdha local bureau in Bardo. In 2013, she was nominated Counsellor and President of the Cooperation and External Relations Committee for the Municipality of Bardo. In 2014, the local bureau asked her to be one of the candidates on the list, to which she agreed. Aged 51, she became a member of the Assembly of the People's Representatives and has since been eager to become a very important representative for Bardo, a symbolic area of the revolution.

A word from Rached Ghannouchi, President, Ennahdha Party



Rached Ghannouchi on Tunisia's future

The success of the recent Presidential Elections is a testament to the successful democratic transition of Tunisia, and is an important achievement for the Arab world as a whole. I congratulate the two candidates for this success, and Beji Caid Essebsi for winning the overall election.

In order to preserve this democratic transition, we all have to accept these results, whilst remembering those who have made sacrifices so that we could reach this important milestone. We must continue this work by addressing employment, education, economic development, and health, and I call on the new President to bring together Tunisians around these objectives. I also call on him to work towards fostering greater national unity, whilst continuing to pursue the consensus politics that led us to this admirable result.

The year ahead represents an exciting year and, if it continues as 2014 left off, we can expect great things from a country widely perceived as the bright shining light in the Arab World. From everyone at Ennahdha, we wish you a very happy New Year.

For further information or interview requests, please contact:

Email - media_english@nahdha.tn

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Nahdha.International>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/ennahdhaparty>

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Recent Highlights

- [Ennahdha Party Consultative Council issues statement on its 35th meeting](#)
- [Rached Ghannouchi writes *Wall Street Journal* op-ed on "Tunisia's Perilous Path to Freedom"](#)
- [Ennahdha Party Statement on Fourth Anniversary of Tunisia's Revolution](#)
- [European Council congratulates Tunisia on "historic" step in democratic transition](#)
- [Tunisia ranked among the "most free" countries in Freedom House report](#)
- [Tunisia's new government faces resistance before ratification vote](#)
- [Georgetown Professor writes that "generalizing about the Arab Spring is playing with fire"](#)
- [Strong demand for Tunisia's bonds signals confidence in country's economy](#)
- [Word from Rached Ghannouchi](#)

Ennahdha Updates

[Ennahdha Consultative Council 35th Meeting Statement](#)

In its 35th meeting on January 25, the Consultative Council discussed its position on the government composition announced by Prime Minister-Designate Mr. Habib Essid last Friday.

Following discussions, the Council:

1. Commended Ennahdha's efforts during negotiations with the aim of forming a government with a broad political base.
2. Stressed the country's need for a national unity government with a program that places Tunisia on the path of achieving development in a climate of security, stability and protection of rights and liberties.
3. Decided not to vote in favor of granting confidence to the government with this composition because it does not express the diversity of the Tunisian political scene and the important gains achieved over the last few years.

[Wall Street Journal Op-Ed: Rached Ghannouchi](#)

Entitled "Tunisia's Perilous Path to Freedom", Rached Ghannouchi argued that for this young democracy to survive, Tunisia needs the help of Europe and other allies. Written whilst negotiations for the government were ongoing, Mr. Ghannouchi stated that since the Arab Spring, despite Tunisia making significant progress, the country is still fragile, "as we learn not only to establish democratic institutions but to sustain an inclusive democratic culture."

[Ennahdha Party Statement on Fourth Anniversary of Tunisia's Revolution](#)

On January 14, Tunisians celebrated the fourth anniversary of the revolution of freedom and dignity. It was an occasion to remember the sacrifices of everyone who suffered during the dictatorship and to celebrate Tunisia's progress.

Tunisians succeeded in toppling the dictator, and in over four years, have built a democratic system that has inspired the world. Despite regional turbulence, Tunisians look to continue the aims of their revolution through consolidating freedoms, establishing social justice and combating poverty, unemployment and marginalization.

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On this occasion, the Ennahdha Party:

1. Prays for those who have paved the path towards freedom and sacrificed their lives for the sake of its protection
2. Stresses the positive value of peaceful dialogue, stressing its commitment to consensus-building and calling all political parties to remain committed to this path
3. Values the success of the electoral process, which constituted a crucial step in the democratic transition of our country
4. Renews its solidarity with Tunisian journalists Sofiene Chourabi and Nedhir Ktari being held in Libya, and calls for the intensification of efforts to protect them and ensure their release
5. Reiterates its willingness, following its Consultative Council's latest decision, to participate in the coming government if an official offer is presented, in order to protect the national interest and meet the needs of the coming phase
6. Stresses that national priorities for the coming phase are achieving security, continuing to combat terrorism until its defeat, and achieving social justice through comprehensive development, fair distribution of wealth, and tackling unemployment
7. Condemns media campaigns by certain outlets against Ennahdha and its leaders through the publication of lies distorting the Party's position on terrorism, a campaign motivated by narrow partisan agendas aimed at poisoning the atmosphere and undermining broad national consensus

In the News

[Freedom House Report: Tunisia ranked among the "most free" countries](#)

Freedom House released its annual Freedom in the World report, which highlighted Tunisia among countries ranked the "most free" in the world. The report said, "The lack of democratic gains around the world was conspicuous. The one notable exception was Tunisia, which became the first Arab country to achieve the status of Free since Lebanon was gripped by civil war 40 years ago."

[Middle East Eye: Generalising about the Arab Spring is playing with fire](#)

A professor of Religion and International Affairs and of Islamic Studies at Georgetown University penned an op-ed in the *Middle East Eye* on January 27. In the article, Professor Esposito warned against generalizations about the Arab Spring. He commended Tunisia and the Ennahdha Party's approach, stating that they had learned lessons from countries like Algeria, and had pursued consensus and cooperation in order to maintain inclusiveness and stability.

[Reuters: Tunisia new government faces resistance before ratification vote](#)

Reuters reported on the ratification vote of the new government. It expected that a number of parties would reject the government proposed last week by Prime Minister-Designate Habib Essid, complicating his cabinet's ratification. According to the article, "Essid courted controversy last week when he selected ministers from secular Nidaa Tounes, the leading party in parliament, and other smaller partners, while shunning Ennahdha."

[Financial Times: Strong demand for Tunisia's \\$1bn bond](#)

Financial Times reported that Tunisia's transition to democratic stability was underlined on January 27 with the country's first unassisted sale of government debt since popular uprisings sparked revolution in the Arab world. International investors keen to capitalize on the country's recent presidential elections put in orders of more than \$4bn for the \$1bn bond, allowing the country to borrow at a lower than expected rate of 5.875 percent over 10 years.

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[Slate: Why was Tunisia the only Arab Spring country that turned out well?](#)

An article in *Slate* on January 28 examined why Tunisia has been the only successful country in the Arab Spring. The article said Tunisia's success is somewhat due to structural factors, but also due to Ennahdha's commitment to democracy. It said, "Under President Moncef Marzouki, Ennahdha showed that an Islamist party can also be democratic by forming coalitions with secular parties, compromising on the constitution, and, most importantly, stepping down in 2013."

[European Union's Foreign Affairs Council: Conclusions on Tunisia](#)

On January 19, the Foreign Affairs Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The European Union congratulated Tunisia in the wake of the legislative and presidential elections which marks a historic step in the country's democratic transition.
2. It welcomed the democratic commitment and the sense of responsibility of the Tunisian people and of all the political leaders and civil society who have managed to preserve a spirit of dialogue conducive to ensuring the success of this process. The EU pays tribute to the Independent High Authority for the Elections (ISIE) which has excellently organized several free, transparent and democratic elections within a short period of time. Tunisia's democratic transition is a source of hope and inspiration for other people in the region.
3. The EU congratulates Mr. Béji Caïd Essebsi on his election as President of Tunisia, as well as the newly-elected representatives of the Tunisian people. It wishes the new authorities every success with the inclusive preparation and the implementation of the reforms which are key to consolidating the rule of law and the democratic achievements of the new Constitution, guaranteeing the security of all Tunisians and meeting the economic and social aspirations that were behind the 2011 revolution.
4. The EU remains steadfastly committed to cooperating with the new President of Tunisia, the next government and the whole of Tunisian society in order to deepen the Privileged Partnership between the EU and Tunisia. With this in mind, the EU will continue to back the efforts of the new authorities with political and financial support commensurate with both the progress already achieved and the challenges faced.

Social Media

[Tobias Ellwood @TobiasEllwoodMP](#)

Congratulations #Tunisia on 1st anniversary of its Constitution: has been a year of significant achievements.

[GermanForeignOffice @GermanyDiplo](#)

FM #Steinmeier expresses his appreciation to FM #Gouia for #Tunisia's "sometimes difficult but so important" path towards democracy.

[Ennahdha Party @EnnahdhaParty](#)

#Ennahdha president Rached #Ghannouchi receives #Italy's ambassador to #Tunisia Mr Raimondo De Cardona @Ambtunisi



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[Hamish Cowell @HamishCowell](#)

2014 #Tunisia tourism: UK visitors break record again with highest-ever number - nearly 425,000. Good for Tunisian economy & UK/Tunisia ties

[Freedom House @FreedomHouseDC](#)

#Tunisia became first Arab country to achieve "Free" status rating since the 1970s #FreedomReport <http://freedomhou.se/fiw2015>

[Ennahdha Party @EnnahdhaParty](#)

#Ennahdha celebration of the fourth anniversary of #Tunisia's revolution and the success of its democratic transition



Portrait of the Week: Mehrezia Maïza Laibid



Mehrezia Maïza Labidi is a translator and professional interpreter. She studied at Grombalia High School, in the Governorate of Nabeul. She then studied at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Sousse until 1986 and in the school of interpretation and translation in Sorbonne University where she specialized in Economic and Legal Translation. She holds a Masters in Economic Translation and a Certificate in English Literature and Theatrical Studies (1992). She taught translation at the IESH (European Institute of Human Sciences) in Saint-Denis.

She is very active in interfaith and intercultural dialogue and women's empowerment projects and has held conferences on the themes education in multicultural societies, women, religion and society. In 2006 she became President of the Religions for Peace Global Women of Faith network, recognized by the UN. In 2009, she became a member of the European Council of Civil and Religious Figures for Peace.

A Tunisian and French citizen, she was elected on the list for France 1 as a Member of Parliament at the first fair and free legislative elections in 2011, and then became the First Vice President of the Constituent Assembly – the highest ranking female parliamentarian in the Arab world. She was elected in 2014 as a member of the People's Representative Assembly and is Head of Ennahdha Party's Youth and Cultural committee in Nabeul.

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A word from Rached Ghannouchi, President, Ennahdha Party



Rached Ghannouchi on Tunisia's future:

January marks the fourth anniversary of the Tunisian revolution, a critical moment in our nation's history. As we look back at the sacrifices made in ousting a dictatorial regime, we must not forget the way in which the revolution transcended geographical, political and religious lines. It was a universal movement that realized the ambition of a united

Tunisia, working together for the common interest whilst overcoming former divisions.

We must work to honor the memory of those who lost their lives in the name of freedom, and we must not grow complacent. Despite holding free and fair parliamentary and presidential elections, the country still has a long way to go to realize the aspirations of its citizens and to fulfil its extraordinary potential. Ennahdha has emphasized the importance of consensus throughout the transitional phase - building democracy must be through consensus. Pluralism is important in every democratic society, but it is particularly critical in democratizing contexts where a society is shifting from decades of hegemonic one-party rule to a new system based on political pluralism, dialogue and inclusiveness. One only has to look at the situation throughout the region to see how fragile young democracies can be, and how critical it is to build common political foundations based on dialogue and inclusiveness.

I applaud the recent efforts by Tunisian parties to form a unity government with a broad political base, but I am disappointed that the proposed government does not reflect the consensus and inclusiveness that has been key to Tunisia's success until now.

As we wait for a new government to be approved by the democratically elected parliament, the world's eyes will be on Tunisia. Will we continue our path of dialogue and consensus that has so uniquely characterized the Tunisian democratic transition, or will we backslide into old political habits? The future of the country requires stability. Without an inclusive approach to government, we face the prospect of an unstable government, undoing much of the progress made.

It is for this reason that Ennahdha will continue to call for a national unity government with a clear economic and social program that reflects the complex needs of our country and continues forward in the path of democratic reform. Only this will truly consolidate our country's progress and honor the sacrifices made in the name of democracy, freedom and dignity that have inspired the hopes and dreams of generations of Tunisians.

For further information or interview requests, please contact:

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Recent Highlights

- [Tunisia approves coalition government](#)
- [Statement on the crime against the Jordanian pilot Muadh Al-Kasasbeh](#)
- [Tunisia 'foils' planned attack against multiple targets](#)
- [Tunisia first Arab country to be ranked as Free by Freedom House since Lebanon 40 years ago](#)
- [Turkish Weekly Journal praises Ghannouchi for embracing democracy](#)
- [Columbia University fellow writes that coalition represents important step toward inclusivity](#)
- [Financial Times says Ennahdha provides an example of a responsible party](#)
- [Three lessons drawn from Tunisia's cabinet formation process](#)
- [Word from Rached Ghannouchi](#)

Ennahdha Updates

[Tunisia approves coalition government](#)

Tunisia's parliament approved a coalition cabinet on Thursday including Nidaa Tounes, Ennahdha and smaller parties, in the latest step in its transition to full democracy following a 2011 uprising. Four years after its uprising against autocrat Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, Tunisia has been held up as an example of political compromise and democratic transition with a new constitution and free elections. The cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Habib Essid, includes members of the secularist Nidaa Tounes and the Islamist Ennahdha party, and was approved by 166 members of the 217-seat parliament.



Ennahdha will be represented by:

[Zied Ladhari: Cabinet Minister for Vocational Training and Employment](#)



Originally elected a member of the National Constituent Assembly in 2011, he became a member of the People's Representatives Assembly in 2014. Having studied in Tunisia, France and the United States, he qualified as a lawyer, advising African states, international organisations, and firms on the implementation of key international development projects in Africa. His legal practice included the settlement of international disputes, in particular legal disputes between States and foreign investors. At age 39, he is the youngest member of the Tunisian

Council of Ministers. He was also one of the founders of the Human Rights League in La Sorbonne, France. In Paris, he joined and played an active role in Transparency International, the world's leading international non-governmental organization fighting corruption. He was also an active member of one of the oldest Think Tanks in France, composed of young professionals interested in political and international life.

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Amel Azzouz: Junior Minister for Development, Investment and International Cooperation

Amel is a member of the Ennahdha Political Bureau and its Consultative Council, the highest institution within the Ennahdha Party. She was elected a member of the National Constituent Assembly in 2011 and served as Rapporteur on the Committee on Education and Member of the Constitutional Committee on Drafting the Preamble and Fundamental Principles. She has a Bachelors and Masters degree in English Literature and is a qualified English teacher. Married and a mother of two, she is fluent in Arabic, English and French.



Nejmeddine Hamrouni: Junior Minister in the Ministry of Health

A clinical psychologist and member of the Consultative Council of Ennahdha party, he has previously advised three successive Heads of Governments - Hamadi Jebali, Ali Laarayedh and Mehdi Jomaa. He holds a PhD in Psychology and a Masters in political science and sociology. An expert policy analyst, he played an important role in mediating between different political stakeholders after the Revolution.



Boutheina Ben Yaghlane: Junior Minister in the Ministry of Finance

With over 22 years of experience, Boutheina has significant expertise in management. She previously served as advisor to the Minister of Regional Development and Planning, responsible for IT infrastructure in Public Projects. She was a Professor of Business Intelligence at the prestigious Higher Institute of Management in Carthage as well as several French universities. She is also the Coordinator of the Vocational Masters in the field of Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneurial Engineering at the IHEC Carthage.

[Statement on the crime against the Jordanian pilot Muadh Al-Kasasbeh](#)

World public opinion has followed the horrific scenes of the brutal murder of Jordanian pilot Muadh Al-Kasasbeh that is unprecedented in Muslim history.

The Ennahdha Party:

- Condemns this despicable crime committed by ISIS against the Jordanian pilot and expresses its condolences to his family.
- Stresses the moral bankruptcy of the terrorist ISIS.
- Calls for the defence of freedom, social justice and modern values such as democracy, which is a genuine expression of Islam and a remedy to the problems of extremism and terrorism.

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In the News

[Al Jazeera: Tunisia 'foils' planned attack against multiple targets](#)

Tunisia has arrested 32 would-be attackers, some of whom had returned from fighting in Syria, who planned "spectacular" attacks, according to officials. News of the arrests on Saturday came one day after a secular-Islamist coalition cabinet headed by Prime Minister Habib Essid took office.

[Freedom House Report: Tunisia first Arab country to be ranked as Free since Lebanon 40 years ago](#)

This is a remarkable achievement for Tunisia, having rapidly risen from "Not Free" only five years ago, with scores that placed it among some of the most repressive regimes in the world. Tunisia is so far the only successful case among the many Arab countries that exhibited some political opening in the 2011 Arab Spring. The improvements that pushed it into the "Free" category included a progressive constitution adopted in January 2014 and free and fair legislative and presidential elections later in the year. As the only full-fledged Arab democracy, Tunisia can set a strong positive example for the region and for all countries that continue to struggle under authoritarian rule.

[Turkish Weekly Journal: The Tunisian model: From dream to reality](#)

One of the most motivating statements regarding Tunisia's democratization was made by Ghannouchi, who said, "The whole world is following the example set by the Tunisian experience," adding, "Please do not ruin it!" Indeed, the fact that Ghannouchi, who represents the conservative Islamic tradition, sincerely embraced democracy and persistently preached a culture of consent and compromise to his followers and the larger populace on every occasion may be the most important feature of the Tunisian revolution.

[The Washington Post: Tunisia opts for an inclusive new government](#)

Monica Marks, visiting fellow at Columbia University's Center for the Study of Democracy, Toleration and Religion, reported that Tunisia made headlines again when it announced an inclusive coalition government. She said this new government would send reassuring signals that Tunisia is stepping toward pluralism and farther from the politics of exclusion. "Overall, this coalition represents an important step toward inclusivity and stability at a fragile moment for Tunisia's transition," the article said.

[Financial Times: The shrewd face of political Islam and power of the ballot box](#)

Roula Khalaf from the *Financial Times* wrote an article about Ennahdha and Rached Ghannouchi. It said Ennahdha is "the lone survivor of the short-lived revival of political Islam in the Middle East" and that Ghannouchi "still has a party with a large popular base and a chance of an electoral comeback." The article said Ghannouchi has done a favor to political Islam by offering an example of a responsible party that abides by democratic rules.

[Atlantic Council: Three lessons drawn from Tunisia's cabinet formation process](#)

An article by Karim Mezran and Lara Talverdian discussed the lessons drawn from Tunisia's cabinet formation process. The three lessons included: winning an election does not mean one can go it alone; the cabinet appointments suggest that the two major parties operate from positions of both strength and weakness, and they need each other; and a process was upheld and respected. The article said the political maneuverings in Tunisia over the last few weeks bear the hallmarks of a "nascent democracy."

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Social Media

- [Brookings @BrookingsInst · Feb 7](#)
Why the symbolic concession to welcome Ennahdha as a legitimate & democratic partner in Tunisia is meaningful: <http://brook.gs/1xD1UUH>
- [Ennahdha Party @EnnahdhaParty · Feb 6](#)
#Ennahdha President Rached #Ghannouchi meets delegation from #US Congress and Senate <http://fb.me/70v62KSl1>
- [GermanForeignOfficeVerified · Feb 6](#)
FM #Steinmeier congratulates new gov't in #Tunisia: Democratic transition in Tunisia is a great achievement+sets an example for the region.
- [@TobiasEllwoodMP · Feb 4](#)
Congratulations #Tunisia on formal confirmation of new government. Look forward to working together.



Profile of the Week: Ali Laarayedh



Ali Laarayedh was born on 15 August 1955 in Médenine. From a Southern Tunisian agricultural family, he successfully completed his secondary education in Médenine then went to Sousse and Tunis to study Engineering at the Merchant Marine School, from which he graduated in 1980. That same year, he joined the Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI), which later became Ennahdha Movement.

After the crackdown on MTI leaders in 1981, a new generation of activists was elected to lead the party, chaired by engineer Hamadi Jebali. Ali Laarayedh was elected President of the Consultative Council, a post he occupied from 1982 to 1986 during which chaired the party's 1984 Congress. In 1987, when the confrontation with President Bourguiba's regime worsened, he was sentenced to death. He was granted a pardon in 1988 by the new President Ben Ali, who overthrew the aged President Bourguiba in a bloodless coup in 1987.

After an initial period of political liberalization, Ben Ali cracked down on all opposition, conducting a brutal campaign of arrests, detention and torture against Ennahdha members, with the aim of eradicating his opponents. Laarayedh was sentenced to 15 years in prison by a military tribunal in 1992 and again subjected to torture and solitary confinement. Since his release from prison in 2004, he re-entered the political fray with some other Ennahdha party leaders and represented the party in the 18th October Collective for Rights and Freedoms, which forged an alliance between many Tunisian opposition parties against the Ben Ali regime.

Following the Jasmine Revolution and the ousting of former dictator Ben Ali on January 14, 2011, the first free and fair elections were organized in Tunisia on October 23, 2011. Laarayedh became Minister of Interior up until March 2013, when Hamadi Jebali's government resigned. He then became Prime Minister until handing over to Mehdi Jomaa's technocratic government in February 2014. He has been Ennahdha Party's Secretary General since June 2014.

Ennahdha Party

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A word from Rached Ghannouchi, President, Ennahdha Party



Rached Ghannouchi on Tunisia's future:

Tunisia has gone through a turbulent few months. After holding free and fair Presidential and Parliamentary elections, the new Assembly only last week ratified a new Government.

With this new Government in place, Tunisia can now look forward to tackling the many issues facing the country over the coming weeks and months. The last phase of Tunisia's transition aimed to create the political institutions needed to enable an economic revival and a new more balanced development model. Without political stability, our country would struggle to address a range of urgent social and economic challenges.

In this next phase, these new political institutions must focus on providing the economic opportunities and higher quality of life to which Tunisians aspire and to consolidate the democratic strides our country has made in just four years. Ennahdha are pleased to be part of the Government in order to help provide a broad base of political stability, and will continue to work towards a stronger and more inclusive Tunisia.

For further information or interview requests, please contact:

Email - media_english@nahdha.tn

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Nahdha.International>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/ennahdhaparty>

Ennahdha Party

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Recent Highlights

- [Ennahdha Party Statement on Killing of Four National Guards in Gasserine](#)
- [Ennahdha Party Statement Following the Murder of Civilian Egyptian Workers in Libya](#)
- [Brookings Institution publishes series on future of political Islam](#)
- [Electoral Integrity Project ranks Tunisia first in Arab World and Africa](#)
- [Reuters: Why Arab Spring made life better in Tunisia, failed everywhere else](#)
- [Boston Globe editorial calls Tunisia a beacon of hope](#)
- [Chatham House: Britain is a fair-weather friend to Tunisia](#)
- [Word from Rached Ghannouchi](#)

Ennahdha Updates

[Ennahdha Party Statement on Killing of Four National Guards in Gasserine](#)

On the night of Tuesday, February 17, a terrorist group in the area of Boulaaba in Gasserine killed four national guards in a horrific act of terrorism.

The Ennahdha Party:

- Prays for those who have died from the National Guard forces and presents its condolences to their families and to the Tunisian people.
- Strongly condemns this cowardly terrorist crime that seeks to undermine the morale of the country's security institution and of all Tunisians.
- Commends our security and military forces and calls on everyone to stand united by their side and to support national unity against terrorist plots.

[Ennahdha Party Statement Following the Murder of Civilian Egyptian Workers in Libya](#)

The terrorist group ISIS has murdered twenty-one innocent civilian Egyptian workers in Libya, in a barbaric savage horrific crime, and a flagrant violation of the values of Islam, and all universal principles.

The Ennahdha Party:

- Strongly condemns this heinous crime against innocent Egyptian workers and presents its condolences to their families and to Egypt.
- Stresses that this group's actions contravene Islam's teachings and values, which enshrine respect for human dignity.
- Calls for uniting efforts in order to ensure the success of the comprehensive national dialogue in Libya so as to protect the country from collapse and from external intervention.

Ennahdha Party

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In the News

[Brookings Institution publishes series on future of political Islam](#)

The Brookings Institution is publishing a series of reports from the field by scholars from the Brookings Center for Middle East Policy. The series focuses on the future of political Islam, based on conversations with regional leaders and activists. Shadi Hamid wrote, “Unlike other Islamist movements, which have generally lacked major thinkers and ideologues — Egypt’s Brotherhood hasn’t had one for decades — Ennahdha’s founder and leader Rached Ghannouchi has articulated a distinctive vision for the party.” Hamid also reported on a day in the life of an Islamist in Parliament.

[Electoral Integrity Project - Tunisia Ranks First in Arab World and Africa](#)

The World Report Electoral Integrity Project 2014 ranks Tunisia first in Africa and in the Arab world in matters of integrity of presidential and legislative elections. Carried out in July and December 2014, the report ranks Tunisia 25th in matters of presidential elections and 34th on the level of the legislative elections, out of a total of 127 countries.

[Reuters: Why Arab Spring made life better in Tunisia, failed everywhere else](#)

Ellen McLarney, in an opinion piece for *Reuters*, analyses how Tunisia has been able to move forward in its transition to democracy, and why its successes have been hard to replicate in other countries. According to McLarney, one reason for this “has been the Islamist Ennahdha Party’s extraordinary willingness to compromise, reach across the secular-religious divide and cede power.” Tunisia’s experience, according to McLarney, challenges stereotypes, particularly by demonstrating that Ennahdha “operates more as a political party responsive to popular demands than as a movement bent on ideological conversion.”

[Boston Globe editorial calls Tunisia a beacon of hope](#)

An editorial in *The Boston Globe* reflected on Tunisia becoming the first genuinely free Arab country since the start of Lebanon’s civil war 40 years ago. It said a crucial milestone was when Ennahdha agreed to peacefully step down in favor of a caretaker government in 2013. “Last October, when the secular Nidaa Tounes party triumphed in Tunisia’s most recent parliamentary elections, Ennahdha’s leaders calmly accepted the result. And when the anti-Islamist Beji Caid Essebsi won the country’s presidential election two months later, his chief rival gracefully acknowledged the voters’ decision and conceded defeat,” the article wrote.

[Chatham House: Britain is a fair-weather friend to Tunisia](#)

The latest edition of *The World Today*, Chatham House’s monthly magazine, contains a comment piece on Tunisia by Dr. Claire Spencer, a senior research fellow in the Middle East and North Africa Department. She refers to Tunisia as “the Arab Spring’s star pupil,” and builds the case for continued British support in the country. She concludes that external support is necessary as the Tunisian economy needs time to recover from the upsets of recent years, and that long-term investment should not be overshadowed by security concerns in the region.

Ennahdha Party

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Social Media

- [Margot Wallström @margotwallstrom](#)
Hope that my EU-colleagues also will visit Tunisia soon: to offer cooperation+support to reform-efforts, contribute to econ. developm.
- [Brookings FP @BrookingsFP](#)
Read @shadihamid's field report from #Tunisia on a day in the life of an Islamist in parliament: <http://brook.gs/1A9aqQZ>
- [Ennahdha Party @EnnahdhaParty](#)
#Ennahdha President receives #Sweden's Foreign Minister @margotwallstrom & Ambassador to #Tunisia @FredrikPFloren
- [Reuters Opinion @reutersopinion](#)
Why the Arab Spring made life better in Tunisia, but failed everywhere else: reut.rs/1G2kVpRpic.twitter.com/aLoC9neUtc
- [UK in Tunisia @UKinTunisia](#)
The British embassy in Tunis, UKTI and TBCC: A workshop to support the Tunisian financial sector <https://storify.com/BritishEmbTunis/the-uk-trade-and-investment-ukti-and-the-tunisian>



Profile of the Week: Imen Ben Mohamed



Imen Ben Mohamed was born on November 13, 1984 in the Southern Tunisian city of Kebili. She left Tunisia with her family at the age of 14 in order to join her father, a political refugee, in Italy. She graduated from the University of Rome in International Cooperation and Economic Development, as well as from the Tunisian Institute of Politics. She only returned to Tunisia once before the Revolution due to the tremendous political pressure facing her family.

In Italy, she was Vice-President of the 'Family and Working Policies' of the National Youth and Civil Society Forum, and an active member of the Young Muslims Association in South Italy. She also participated in numerous conferences in Italy and Europe related to cultural dialogue and trained Italian children and teenagers in the field of dialogue and rapprochement between religions and cultures.

She was elected as a member of the National Constituent Assembly in the first free and fair Tunisian elections in 2011 for the constituency of Italy. Imen was again selected to head the electoral list in Italy in the 2014 parliamentary elections, and the Italian diaspora renewed its confidence in her, electing her again to the Assembly of the People's Representatives. As an Ennahdha deputy, she is a member of the Rights, Liberties and External Relations Committee and of the Electoral Committee.

Ennahdha Party

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A word from Rached Ghannouchi, President, Ennahdha Party



Rached Ghannouchi

Rached Ghannouchi on Tunisia's future:

The ratification of the unity Government is a major step in strengthening our democratic transition, but more needs to be done to secure Tunisia's economic transition.

In a climate increasingly characterised by security challenges, the national security of our country is taking centre stage in the aftermath of our democratic successes. Tunisia is on the frontline against the threat of violent extremism, particularly with further turmoil threatening neighboring countries. Accordingly, security budgets will have to be increased in order to cater to this threat. However, without investment and foreign aid, it is likely that our economy will struggle to counter the twin threats of political fragility and national security.

We are keen to engage with a wide range of partners, and we will continue to strengthen our traditional relations with the Eurozone. We are a country with enormous potential, and with young Tunisians eager to engage with the world, it is vital that we continue to generate investment, grow our economy, and strengthen our democratic progress in the face of security challenges.

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Ennahdha Party

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Recent Highlights

- [Ennahdha Women & Family Office Statement on International Women's Day](#)
- [Ghannouchi Op-Ed: Why did Ennahdha Accept an Unequal Partnership?](#)
- [Tunisia Hosts U.S.-sponsored Conference on Investment and Entrepreneurship](#)
- [U.S. Commerce Secretary Announces Public-Private Partnership to Strengthen Entrepreneurship](#)
- [Aspen Institute: Tunisia's Transition to Democracy is a "Compelling Story for Potential Investors"](#)
- [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: A New Phase in Tunisia's Transition](#)
- [Tunisian MP Sayida Ounissi Discusses Women in Politics Ahead of International Women's Day](#)
- [Tunisia Opens New Eco-tourist Train Called the "Desert Rose"](#)
- [Word from Rached Ghannouchi](#)

Ennahdha Updates

[Ennahdha Women & Family Office Statement on International Women's Day](#)

This year, International Women's Day follows Tunisia's successful completion of two elections and the creation of a new constitution that stresses equality between male and female citizens. As we celebrate all the gains achieved by women, we draw attention to the fact that these constitutional and legislative gains alone are not sufficient, and must be accompanied by a real will to embody them in reality through practical measures.

The Ennahdha Party:

- Call on the government and on all political parties and civil society organizations to activate the articles of the Constitution that enshrine equality, equal opportunities and gender parity, by giving women equal access to all leadership positions in administrative, party, civil society and private institutions.
- Stress the necessity of reforming Tunisian legislation in light of the constitution, and in particular promulgating the new law for combating violence against women, amending the public service and employment codes in order to address the various forms of injustice suffered by working women, including exploitation, vulnerable employment, unequal pay, sexual harassment, unfair dismissal particularly of pregnant women and nursing mothers and deprivation from social benefits and insurance against employment accidents, particularly for women working in the agricultural sector.
- Commend Tunisia's heroic women in the national army, police, National Guard, customs and civil protection service, and support them in their efforts to protect Tunisia from the dangers of terrorism.
- Commend all women of Tunisia, of all social, political and intellectual backgrounds, and call them towards joint action in order to protect the gains of Tunisian women and develop them further in the framework of a free and just state.
- Express solidarity with Arab women struggling for Arab states free from occupation, dictatorship and terrorism, at the forefront of who are Palestinian women, the symbol of resistance and steadfastness.
- Support the struggle of all free women of the world struggling for a safe world where justice, peace and equality reign.

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In the News

[Ghannouchi Op-Ed: Why did Ennahdha Accept an Unequal Partnership?](#)

In an op-ed for the *Middle East Monitor*, Rached Ghannouchi described the process of political consensus reaching that the party has undertaken on behalf of the country. In regards to Ennahdha's role in the new Government, he argued that it is the participation itself that matters as opposed to the size of the participation. In this sense, Ennahdha's strategy is based upon consensus over conflict. Indeed, this is not the first time the party has put the country ahead of its own political ambitions, and after stepping down to allow a technocratic government to draft a constitution free from political interference; the party is keen to continue to cooperate with all parties, including those that have traditionally been opposed to Ennahdha.

[Tunisia Hosts U.S.-sponsored Conference on Investment and Entrepreneurship](#)

Associated Press reported that Tunisia's new government gave an inaugural performance on March 5 by hosting a U.S.-sponsored conference on investment and entrepreneurship designed to boost international confidence in the new democracy. The conference, which featured a videotaped message from President Barack Obama and was headlined by U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, was featured by Tunisian officials as a way of telling the world that Tunisia was back on track.

[U.S. Commerce Secretary Announces Public-Private Partnership to Strengthen Entrepreneurship](#)

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker announced the launch of Regional Investments to Support Entrepreneurship (RISE), a public-private partnership aimed at promoting trade and investment between Tunisia and the U.S., increasing market access, improving commercial rule of law and strengthening entrepreneurship. Secretary Pritzker announced the new platform during her keynote address at the Tunisian Investment and Entrepreneurship Conference in Tunis, Tunisia.

[Aspen Institute: Tunisia's Transition to Democracy is a "Compelling Story for Potential Investors"](#)

Written by Toni Verstandig, the Chair of the Aspen Institute's Middle East Programs and Senior Vice President at the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace, the article called Tunisia "a silver lining in an otherwise opaque regional cloud." She also stated that Tunisia's transition to democratic stability provides a compelling story for potential investors seeking to leverage the country's political progress. Verstandig argued that now is the time for the U.S. and international community to demonstrate their commitment to Tunisia by supporting the economy.

[Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: A New Phase in Tunisia's Transition](#)

An article in Carnegie Endowment for International Peace by Richard Youngs reported that Tunisia is entering a crucial second phase of its democratic transition. The article said there is widespread agreement that Tunisia's economic problems are now the priority concern. The author said a key question is whether the spirit of compromise and consensus that helped the drawing up of a democratic constitution outlives the first phase of transition.

[Tunisian MP Sayida Ounissi Discusses Women in Politics Ahead of International Women's Day](#)

In an interview with Sayida Ounissi, a 28-year-old member of the Tunisian parliament, Sandro Lutyens explored the notion of gender and politics ahead of International Women's day. Ounissi is depicted as a rising star that "fits in well with Ennahdha's ambition to reconcile Islam with democracy." Tunisia itself is praised for its gender equality as one-third of Tunisian MPs are women. However, there is still much to be done in Tunisia, and as Ounissi said, "It is a never-ending battle."

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Tunisia Opens New Eco-tourist Train Called the "Desert Rose"

On February 20, Tunisia opened a new eco-tourist train called the "Desert Rose," which will allow tourists to visit ecological and archaeological sites along its route. The project between the Tunisian State Railways (SNCFT) and the French company Discovery Trains was agreed on in June of last year. Tunisia is set to gain 70% of all investment revenue.

Social Media

- [Ennahdha International Page](#)
#Ennahdha president meets former #US FM Madeleine Albright at the Tunis Investment & Entrepreneurship Conference #Tunisia #iectunis
- [AmCham Tunisia @AmChamTunisia](#)
"Tunisia gives us hope, as you work for democracy and prosperity" @BarackObama encouraging investments in #Tunisia #IECTunis @StateDept
- [Borzou Daragahi @borzou](#)
US @StateDept official leads Arab-American business delegation to Algeria and Tunisia <http://t.co/KulyJ3LKKj>
- [Christine Petré @christinepetre](#)
#Startup #MENA expands its network to #Tunisia [http://www.wamda.com/2015/03/startup-mena-coming-to-tunisia-](http://www.wamda.com/2015/03/startup-mena-coming-to-tunisia-...) ... via @wamdaME @startupmena



Profile of the Week: Nouredine Bhiri



Nouredine Bhiri, born on July 10, 1958 in Jebiniana, Tunisia, is the Chair of the Ennahdha Parliamentary Group. He was elected to in the Assembly of the People's Representatives in the 2014 elections in the constituency of Ben Arous.

Nouredine holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Law and Political Science from University of Tunis. He worked as a lawyer at the Cassation Court of Tunis and was Coordinator of the Lawyers' Committee in the Military Courts in 1992.

He joined the Ennahdha Movement in 1977 and held different positions within the party, including member of the Political Bureau, the Executive Bureau and the Consultative Council. Following the wave of arrests of political opposition by the regime, he was imprisoned between February and September 1987.

On December 20, 2011, after former President Ben Ali was deposed, he joined Prime Minister Jebali's cabinet as Minister of Justice, and then served as Advisor to the Head of Government in Ali Laarayedh's government. Nouredine is married and has four children.

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A Word from Rached Ghannouchi, President, Ennahdha Party



Rached Ghannouchi

Rached Ghannouchi on Tunisia's future:

The ratification of the unity Government is a major step in strengthening our democratic transition, but more needs to be done to secure Tunisia's economic transition.

The recent Investment and Entrepreneurship Conference (IEC) that was hosted in Tunisia on March 5 aimed to foster investment partnerships between Tunisia and the U.S. The event was a success, and during a video announcement [President Obama announced](#) that the U.S.

would invest more than one billion dollars in the next generation of entrepreneurs in Tunisia.

This was a welcomed announcement, and comes on the back of recent news that trade between Tunisia and Germany has increased by 700% in the last three years. We hope that this draws attention to the investment potential of Tunisia, that was ranked 44th in the world in terms of venture capital availability.

We will continue to encourage foreign investment in Tunisia over the coming months and years. North Africa has tremendous economic potential, and Tunisia in particular provides a strategic gateway between Africa and Europe. With the political situation now stable, the country needs outside investment in order to truly achieve its potential, and the international community must build on these recent announcements to demonstrate its commitment to Tunisia.

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- [Ennahdha Party Statement on Heinous Terrorist Crime](#)
- [Statement of Ennahdha Consultative Council's Thirty-Sixth Session](#)
- [Ennahdha Statement on Tunisia's Independence Day](#)
- [White House Statement on the Attack at Tunisia's National Bardo Museum](#)
- [US Department of State Statement on National Bardo Museum Attack](#)
- [Council on Foreign Relations: US Interest in Tunisia's Successful Democratic Transition](#)
- [Foreign Policy: Today, Tunisia Is Tested](#)
- [The Atlantic: Tunisia is Still a Success](#)
- [The Los Angeles Times: Tunisia Could be a Model for What Works in the Mideast](#)
- [BBC Report on Tunisia](#)
- [Relioscope Interview with Rached Ghannouchi](#)

Ennahdha Updates

[Ennahdha Party Statement on Heinous Terrorist Crime](#)

Following last week's terrorist attack in the centre of Tunis, which saw 23 innocent people lose their lives in and around the Bardo Museum and the Assembly of the People's Representatives, the Ennahdha Party:

- Prays for the innocent victims and presents its heartfelt condolences to their families and their countries, and wishes the injured a speedy recovery.
- Condemns in the strongest manner the attack by this criminal organisation, its targeting of a site of symbolic importance and the killing of innocent lives, including a number of guests of our country.
- Stresses that this terrorist crime is a failed attempt to undermine our security and stability, spread fear and harm our country's economy by damaging the important tourism sector that is of critical importance to the livelihood of hundreds of thousands of Tunisians.
- Calls all Tunisians to stand together against this scourge which has no future in Tunisia.
- Stresses that this crime will not break our people's will and will not undermine our revolution and our democracy, and that the people who defeated dictatorship will surely defeat terrorism.
- Calls for holding a national conference to set a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy and for accelerating the adoption of the new anti-terrorism law and laws supporting security forces in fulfilling their duties.

[Statement of Ennahdha Consultative Council's Thirty-Sixth Session](#)

The Ennahdha Party's Consultative Council held its 36th session on March 21, in which the main agenda question was the recent terrorist attack on Bardo Museum.

After listening to the Party President's report on the general situation in the country the Council:

- Strongly condemned this atrocious crime against innocent people and against political and cultural symbols and the country's economy.

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- Considers terrorism to be a cross-border phenomenon feeding from regional and international contexts.
- Commends the state of wide national solidarity and Tunisians' rallying around Tunisia.
- Praises the reactions of regional and international bodies and states which have all expressed solidarity with Tunisia.
- Commends the state's significant successes to curb and weaken terrorist organisations
- Stresses that countering terrorism requires national unity within the framework of a comprehensive national.
- Calls for a national conference on terrorism, and for massive mobilisation for the international march in support of freedom and against barbarity.
- Calls on the government to present the anti-terrorism law and the law for the protection of the police, to the People's Representatives' Assembly.
- Congratulates the Tunisian people on the fifth-ninth anniversary of independence and commends the struggle of all the generations which contributed to its achievement.
- Welcomes Tunisia's guests to the World Social Forum, wishing the Forum success in strengthening rapprochement, cooperation and partnership between people of the world through their civil society organisations.

[Ennahdha Statement on Tunisia's Independence Day](#)

On March 20, Tunisians proudly celebrated the 59th anniversary of the declaration of independence, which launched the building of our modern national state. The full statement from Ennahdha can be read [here](#).

In the News

[White House Statement by the Press Secretary on the Attack at Tunisia's National Bardo Museum](#)

"We extend our deepest sympathies to the victims of today's heinous violence in Tunisia and condemn in the strongest terms this terrorist attack, which took the lives of innocent Tunisians as well as visiting tourists. American officials are in touch with Tunisian authorities, and the United States is prepared to offer assistance to their investigation.

While we do not yet know the identities of the attackers or their motives, what we do know is that their cowardly acts will not intimidate the Tunisian people, whose storied heritage is showcased at the site of this attack, the National Bardo Museum. The United States is proud of our robust cooperation with Tunisia on counterterrorism and broader security issues, and we will continue to stand with our Tunisian partners against terrorist violence."

[US Department of State Statement on National Bardo Museum Attack](#)

"The United States condemns in the strongest possible terms today's deadly terrorist attack at the National Bardo Museum in Tunis, where gunmen killed 19 people and wounded more than 20 others. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the victims' families and loved ones. We commend Tunisian authorities' rapid response to today's wanton violence and their efforts to resolve the hostage situation and restore calm. The United States stands with the Tunisian people at this difficult time and continues to support the Tunisian government's efforts to advance a secure, prosperous, and democratic Tunisia."

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[Council on Foreign Relations: US Interest in Tunisia's Successful Democratic Transition](#)

In a guest blog post for the Council on Foreign Relations, Brian Garrett-Glaser discussed the role of the U.S. in Tunisia and the wider Arab world. A democratic Tunisia, on the other hand, could prove an ideological counterweight to help neutralize extremism through inclusive politics and the promotion of moderate Islam.

[Foreign Policy: Today, Tunisia Is Tested](#)

Published on the *Foreign Policy* website, the article argued that the attack in Tunisia presents an important test for the country's transition from dictatorship to democracy. It argued that if politicians respond the wrong way to this tragic event and let old divisions creep into the country's fragile new political dynamic, Tunisia could fall into the same traps that derailed the Libyan and Egyptian transitions. Brian Klaas argued that there will of course be dissenting voices who will call upon the President for a "robust authoritarian crackdown" – but he should instead work "with moderate Islamists while ensuring a robust security presence based on strong intelligence."

[The Atlantic: Tunisia is Still a Success](#)

An op-ed in *The Atlantic* by Larry Diamond from the Hoover Institution argued that Tunisia is still a success. It said that despite the terrorist attack, Tunisia remains full of promise. The article stated: "Alone among the Arab Spring states, it has achieved a remarkable level of political compromise among secular parties and the principal Islamist party, Ennahdha. This has been due in no small measure to the leadership of Ennahdha founder Rached Ghannouchi, who has, at every crucial turn on the sometimes troubled path from dictatorship, embraced flexibility and moderation and promoted the vision, as he put it in a March 20 statement celebrating the country's 59th anniversary of independence, of 'a republic of freedom, democracy, and social justice.'"

[The Los Angeles Times: Tunisia Could be a Model for What Works in the Mideast](#)

An op-ed in the *Los Angeles Times* by Dalia Dassa Kaye, director of the Center for Middle East Public Policy at Rand Corp, said it should be appreciated that Tunisia could offer a completely different model for the Middle East, one that values pluralism and development and that is bent on countering extremism. Kaye said the U.S. and the international community need to follow through on offers of economic support to Tunisia.

[BBC Report on Tunisia](#)

Sayida Ounissi and Rached Ghannouchi were both referenced heavily in this piece on the BBC website by the chief international correspondent, Lyse Doucet. The article discussed how the democratic transition of Tunisia is being tested in the aftermath of the attack, as new anti-terror laws have been argued by some to be a step back to a police state. Mr. Ghannouchi dismissed these allegations, expressing confidence in the gains won by Tunisia's revolution as well as the importance of national unity.

[Religoscope Interview with Rached Ghannouchi](#)

In an interview with Konrad Pedziwiatr on the *Religion.info* website, Rached Ghannouchi discussed the situation in Tunisia and the role of Ennahdha in facilitating the country's democratic transition. He argued that the "Tunisian revolution has taken the Arab world into a new era," and that the "Tunisian people are the most unified people in the Arab world."

Ennahdha Party

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Social Media

- [John Kerry @JohnKerry](#)
Condemn the appalling attack at National Bardo Museum in #Tunis. America stands w/Tunisian people, victims from all nations & their families
- [Donald Tusk @eucopresident](#)
One minute of silence. The European Council pays tribute to the victims of the terrorist attack in #Tunisia. #EUCO
- [UK Prime Minister @Number10gov](#)
PM: Appalled by sickening terrorist attack in #Tunis - my thoughts are with those affected. UK stands ready to support Tunisia
- [Robert Rydberg @RydbergMena](#)
More important than ever to stand by #Tunisia as it faces even more difficult security and economic challenge. Unity of Tunisians give hope.



Obituary: Moncef Ben Salem



On March 24th 2015, Professor Moncef Ben Salem, a married father of four, passed away following a long illness caused by the mistreatment he received at the hands of the Ben Ali regime. Born on April 1st 1953, he passed his A-Levels specialized in Mathematics in 1970, then obtained in 1972 a degree in Scientific Sciences, and in 1974 a Masters in Mathematics. He then went to France, where he was awarded a Certificate of Engineering in Automatics in 1975, a PhD in Fundamental Physics in 1976, and a PhD in Mathematics in 1980. Professor at the Union of

Francophone Universities in Belgium and Canada, he is one of the founders of the National School for Engineers of Sfax, and one of the most prominent Tunisian Scientists.

In 1987, Prof. Ben Salem was imprisoned and subjected to torture, alongside other Ennahdha leaders. In 1990, he was again imprisoned following the publication of an interview he gave to an Algerian newspaper in which he criticised Ben Ali's regime's human rights violations. Following his release from prison, he was prevented by the former regime from teaching, travelling, working, and was put under police surveillance because of his membership of Ennahdha. He had a little stall where he was selling parsley, but the Ben Ali regime found that even this was too much for him and frequently came to seize his modest merchandise.

Following the Revolution of Liberty and Dignity, Moncef Ben Salem was elected member of the National Constituent Assembly, then nominated in December 2011 as minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Jebali led government. He also kept this post in the Larayedh government from March 2013. He was nominated Secretary General and was the founder of the Higher Education Union in Sfax, visiting professor in Maryland University, at the International Center for Fundamental Physics in Italy, and was a member of CNRS in France. He was also a member of the Union of Arab Physicians and Mathematicians.

His vivacious mind, his discretion, his sweetness, his hard work will be what we will keep in mind.
May his soul rest in peace.

Ennahdha Party

Fortnightly Tunisia Newsletter

March 26, 2015

A word from Rached Ghannouchi, President, Ennahdha Party



Rached Ghannouchi

Rached Ghannouchi on Tunisia's future:

Two days after the abhorrent attacks on innocent civilians in Tunis, Tunisians were brought together to celebrate the 59th anniversary of the declaration of independence. This massive show of national unity serves to highlight just how far we have come in our democratic transition.

Indeed, it is a testimony to our successes that people who reject fundamental notions of freedom and dignity would seek to undermine them. Yet Instead of threatening our

country's transition, their actions only seek to strengthen our resolve, and as we celebrate 59 years of independence we will continue to stress our full engagement in the building of the second republic, the republic of freedom, democracy and social justice.

Despite the regional instability on our doorstep, our long-established state will prevent extremists from establishing themselves here. During our time in Government we worked tirelessly to ensure development of the security sector, dismantling of terrorist networks, improvement of regional and international coordination, proscribing terrorist organisations and bringing back mosques under state control so that that extremists were not allowed a platform within our mosques.

Tunisia has been engaged in a war against terrorism for years now and successful counter-terrorism operations have weakened these domestic terrorist networks. Seen through this prism, the attack in Tunis was a desperate act, and we should continue to fight terrorism via a holistic approach. Given that terrorism is a global challenge, we must work alongside a wide range of groups, both in Tunisia and in the wider locale to share knowledge and best practice on how to nullify the threat of terrorism.

However, the potential of Tunisia is intrinsically twinned with the fate of Libya, and unless the situation there is resolved, the conflict will continue to spread across our borders. Tackling the challenges and dangers facing us will require a lot of work, but the country is united behind a common purpose. Tunisia will remain a beacon across the region, and will continue to be an example of how Islam and democracy can coexist. Security failures will be investigated and fixed, and Tunisia will remain open for business.

For further information or interview requests, please contact:

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Twitter - <https://twitter.com/ennahdhaparty>

Ennahdha Party

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April 10, 2015

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- [Ennahdha Party Statement on the Attack on Garissa University in Kenya](#)
- [Ennahdha Statement Following Attack by Terrorist Group on National Army Patrol](#)
- [Ennahdha Statement on National Martyrs' Day](#)
- [Zied Ladhari Cleans up Ministry and Establishes Ministerial Priorities](#)
- [U.S. House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Delegation Lay Wreath at Bardo National Museum](#)
- [Financial Times Op-Ed: Help Tunisia to Complete the Transition to Democracy](#)
- [Bardo Museum Attack: Thousands Join Protest March](#)

Ennahdha Updates

[Ennahdha Party Statement on the Attack on Garissa University in Kenya](#)

The Somali terrorist group Al-Shabaab murdered 148 people, most of them students, in a terrorist attack on Friday, April 3, in the University of Garissa, Kenya. This was a flagrant violation of the values of Islam, as well as all international laws and norms.

The Ennahdha Party:

- Strongly condemns this cowardly crime against innocent Kenyans and presents its sincere condolences to their families and to the people of Kenya and expresses its solidarity and full support.
- Stresses that the heinous acts perpetrated by this group contravene Islam's teachings and values, which enshrine respect for human dignity.
- Calls for moderation, balance and protection of freedom, social justice and modern values such as democracy, which are a true expression of Islam and a cure for extremism and terrorism.

[Ennahdha Statement Following Attack by Terrorist Group on National Army Patrol](#)

On Tuesday, April 7, a terrorist group attacked a national army patrol in el-Mghila in the district of Jelma in the governorate of Sidi Bouzid. The cowardly crime resulted in the death of four soldiers and injured nine others.

The Ennahdha Party:

- Prays for those killed in defence of our nation, and offers its condolences to their families and to all Tunisians, and wishes a speedy recovery to the injured.
- Strongly condemns this atrocious crime perpetrated by a criminal gang and affirms that Tunisia will defeat all terrorist gangs.
- Stresses that this heinous crime is a desperate reaction by these criminal gangs particularly following the latest success achieved by our security and military forces against them.
- Reaffirms that terrorism has no future in our country and that terrorist crimes will only draw Tunisians to rally further around their security and military forces and will only increase our people's commitment to national unity in the face of this threat and their commitment to defeat it and confidence in their ability to do so.

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Ennahdha Statement on National Martyrs' Day

On Thursday, April 9, Tunisians proudly celebrate Martyrs' Day, remembering the sacrifices of generations of men and women who gave their lives for a Tunisian parliament.

As we, at Ennahdha Party, commemorate this day, we pray for those who sacrificed their lives for the country, and believe that Tunisians, through their revolution, are today realizing the dream of their predecessors who struggled against occupation and the dream of all those who struggled against dictatorship, and that the People's Representatives Assembly is an embodiment of the slogan of the April 9, 1938 demonstration and of the people's sovereignty.

We are conscious of the magnitude of the responsibility shouldered by our people and its national parties and organizations after the fall of dictatorship and the success of the democratic transition through the adoption of an inclusive constitution, the holding of free elections and the establishment of permanent democratic institutions. Today our people aspire to achieving their economic transition through enacting reforms that bring development, social and regional justice, and combating poverty, unemployment and marginalization.

The gains for which our people have struggled and for which it gave thousands of martyrs during the eras of occupation and dictatorship deserve to be protected and preserved by Tunisians. The generation of the revolution of freedom and dignity must have the determination to complete the aims of their revolution and protect it from the dangers threatening it, most importantly terrorism which tarnishes our civilization and faith and undermines our economy and our revolution.

We honor our martyrs when we realize their dreams and continue on their path. We are certain that the success we have achieved in Tunisia will strengthen our people's national unity, preserve the method of consensus-building as the way to confront challenges and consolidate the success of our military and security forces in defeating terrorism and its gangs.

Zied Ladhari Cleans up Ministry for Vocational Training and Employment and Establishes Ministerial Priorities

The Minister for Vocational Training and Employment, Mr. Zied Ladhari, presented the priorities of his ministry for the upcoming one hundred days. He identified five areas: The development of a new micro-project funding model and mentoring for developers; support for companies in difficulty; the creation of a national portal for civil service recruitment; encouraging local and regional employment initiatives; and encouraging diplomas for vocational training, especially in the most requested specializations.

He also revealed that while the number of unemployed persons declined from 738,000 in 2011 to 653,000 in 2013, the number of unemployed university graduates has increased by 31.4%, the majority of whom are women.

The Minister also announced on Monday that he suspended a number of people from his ministry pending an investigation into allegations of fraud.

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Delegation Trip to India

This week saw a delegation trip to India led by the Ennahdha Party President Rached Ghannouchi on the invitation of the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the trip, Party representatives met with a number of prominent Indian politicians including the Vice-President of India Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj and the Deputy Speaker of Parliament Thambi Durai. The visit also included lectures delivered at Indian universities and think-tanks including Jawaharlal Nehru University's School of International Studies in New Delhi, the Observer Research Foundation, Aligarh University and India's Council for Cultural Relations.



(TOP) Ennahdha delegation received by India's Foreign Minister

(LEFT) India Vice President Mohamed Hamid Ansari receives Ennahdha President Rached Ghannouchi

In the News

House Majority Leader McCarthy and Congressional Delegation Lay Wreath at Bardo National Museum

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) led a Congressional delegation to Tunisia where they visited and laid a wreath in solidarity with the Tunisian people and in remembrance of the innocent lives that were taken by terrorists during an attack at the Bardo National Museum. Delegation members included Reps. Kay Granger (R-TX), Fred Upton (R-MI), Tom Graves (R-GA), Peter Welch (D-VT), Mike Conaway (R-TX), Diane Black (R-TN) and Erik Paulsen (R-MN). Ennahdha party officials, including Rached Ghannouchi, met with the delegation during their visit in Tunis.



Financial Times Op-Ed: Help Tunisia to Complete the Transition to Democracy

"The attacks boost our resolve not to let our achievements be spoilt," wrote Amel Azzouz, the Tunisian Secretary of State for International Co-operation (Ennahdha Party) in the *Financial Times*. She argued that in the past four years, Tunisia has made big strides towards democracy that can bring genuine stability, yet it is only halfway there. She stated that Tunisians urgently need support from overseas to preserve the gains they have made and continue to make social and economic progress.

Bardo Museum Attack: Thousands Join Protest March

On March 29, thousands of demonstrators took to the streets of Tunis chanting "Tunisia is free! Terrorism out!" in reaction to the attacks at the Bardo Museum, in which 21 foreign tourists and a Tunisian died. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (*left*), French President Francois Hollande (*middle*), Ennahdha President Rached Ghannouchi (*right*) and other world leaders attended a ceremony at the museum. The march was covered widely by world media. Ennahdha Party played a huge role in encouraging people to attend the rally, and were heavily involved in its conception.



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Social Media

- [CSIS @CSIS · April 9](#)
"We need some success stories in the region, & we are proud for Tunisia to be one"- Algerian FM Ramtane Lamamra | <http://cs.is/1FmhjSG>
- [Ennahdha Party @EnnahdhaParty · April 7](#)
Rached Ghannouchi leads #Ennahdha delegation on a week-long visit to #India #Tunisia
- [Imen Ben Mohamed · April 6](#)
@ImenBenMohamed #EP delegation headed by @AntonioPanzeri visit @EnnahdhaParty with #Larayedh @Labidi_mehrzia @OsamaALSaghir #TnArp
- [Ennahdha Party @EnnahdhaParty · April 6](#)
@EnnahdhaParty #Ennahdha President #Ghannouchi's lecture at the School of International Studies in New Delhi, #India #Tunisia
- [FSI Stanford @FSIStanford · March 23](#)
The recent terror attack in Tunisia doesn't signal the country's slide into oppression, says FSI's @LarryDiamond: <http://trib.al/PusxusU>

Profile of the Week: Yamina Zoghلامي



Yamina Zoghلامي

Yamina Zoghلامي, born on February 28, 1970 in Tunis, was elected as a member of the National Constituent Assembly on October 23, 2011 then elected again as a member of the Assembly of People's Representatives on October 26, 2014 for the Ennahdha Party in the constituency of Tunis 1.

Mrs. Zoghلامي attended primary and secondary school in Tunis and was dismissed from secondary school for wearing a headscarf. She then enrolled in a private institute to finish her studies and passed her baccalaureate with a specialization in Literature and Languages. She pursued her academic studies at the University of Literature and Social Sciences of Tunis and obtained a degree in History, then a postgraduate

degree in Modern History. She became active within Ennahdha Party in 1985 and took part in various political and social activities until the movement was banned and severely repressed by the Ben Ali regime in the beginning of the 1990's.

As a deputy in the National Constituent Assembly, she served as President of the Commission for Martyrs and Casualties of the Revolution and General Amnesty. She also played a major role, together with female deputies from across party lines, in securing the inclusion of Article 46 of the Constitution, on women's equal representation in elected bodies. As a deputy in the Assembly of People's Representatives, she serves as first rapporteur in the General Legislation Committee and as a member of the Special Committee for Women, Youth and Children. Mrs. Zoghلامي is married and has three children.

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April 10, 2015

A word from Rached Ghannouchi, President, Ennahdha Party



Rached Ghannouchi

Rached Ghannouchi on Tunisia's future:

The attacks in Tunis and in Kasserine have shown that Tunisia's democratic transition continues to be a target for those who wish to derail our progress, and that more needs to be done to secure Tunisia's economic and democratic transition. In the face of violent extremism, the work of our security and military forces, the defiant reaction of the Tunisian people and the support expressed by Tunisia's friends have all shown that Tunisia is still on the right path to achieve its people's aspirations

to freedom and dignity.

While the army and security forces continue their tireless efforts to protect our country, the Assembly has begun discussing the proposed new anti-terror law. What our forces need is legislation that better defines terrorist crimes, defines the powers of security and military forces, the executive and the judiciary to make their work more efficient, provides protection to officers and their families and maintains the rights and freedoms enshrined in our Constitution. Our security forces also need the training and resources necessary to do their job in a more challenging regional and global context. It is important for Tunisia's friends and allies to work closely with the government to ensure better security cooperation, intelligence sharing and judicial and security training so that Tunisian institutions can protect citizens and uphold their human rights.

The fight against violent extremism requires a holistic approach that takes into consideration not only law enforcement and security measures, but also measures to promote social and economic inclusion. Democracy must be seen to deliver on people's hopes and expectations. The legitimacy of democratic institutions must be bolstered by being seen to be effective in improving people's lives. At this critical time, Tunisia needs economic assistance, investment and trade partnerships that are vital in order to generate jobs and give young people hope in democracy.

While the threat of ISIS will continue to dominate the news pages this year, the world must not forget Tunisia's democratic transformation. Its success despite all the odds shows its immense potential as a democratic beacon in the Arab region, and as a gateway between Europe, Africa and the Middle East. While it may be a tough time for democracy around the world, democracy continues to be built and successfully sustained in Tunisia day after day. The world must not miss the opportunity to support this sole success of the Arab Spring.

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- [Ennahdha Statement on the Migrant Crisis and Shipwreck in the Mediterranean Sea](#)
- [Ennahdha Statement on Death Sentences in Egypt](#)
- [Ennahdha Statement on Prosecution Arrest Warrant Against Journalist Samir Elwafi](#)
- [Ennahdha Statement on Execution of Thirty Ethiopians by Terrorist Group in Libya](#)
- [Reuters: US to Triple Military Aid to Tunisia](#)
- [Tunisia's Election Commission Releases Final Report on Historic 2014 Elections](#)
- [Tunis to Host 5th Global Forum on Direct Democracy](#)
- [Global Policy Journal: Addressing Extremism - Lessons from Tunisia](#)
- [Indian RSTV Interview with Rached Ghannouchi](#)
- [Ghannouchi Speaks to Conference about Secularism, Fundamentalism and Violence in Africa](#)
- [Remarks on Tunisia by Deputy Secretary Antony Blinken at the Council on Foreign Relations](#)

Ennahdha Updates

[Ennahdha Party Statement on the Migrant Crisis and Shipwreck in the Mediterranean Sea](#)

Following the horrific drowning tragedy that took place on Sunday 19 April 2015 off the Libyan coast leading to the death of an estimated 800 clandestine migrants, in the deadliest such shipwreck disasters in the Mediterranean according to the International Organisation for Migration, Ennahdha Party:

- Expresses its profound shock and its full solidarity with the victims and their families.
- Calls for the activation of humanitarian international law, further naval and air surveillance and doing everything possible to save migrants who have been pushed by poverty and wars in their countries to risk their lives in such perilous journeys.
- Calls for a crackdown on migrant traffickers and stresses that the root causes of clandestine migration are lack of development and the spread of wars and conflicts, and that the key to addressing this migration is the achievement of development and stability in African countries and the establishment of fairer relations between North and South.

[Ennahdha Party Statement on Death Sentences in Egypt](#)

On April 11, 2015, a Cairo Court issued death sentences against fourteen leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood and life sentences against thirty-seven others for the charges of destabilizing the state and planning attacks.

The Ennahdha Party:

- Considers these sentences to be unfair and a continuation of the systematic use of the judiciary against political opponents.
- Calls for repealing death sentences and avoiding zero-sum conflicts that rule out the possibility of dialogue and reconciliation between political rivals.
- Stresses that Egypt's future must be built by all Egyptians without exception, through a national dialogue that puts an end to exclusion and includes all political forces on the basis of consensus-building, coexistence, reconciliation and democracy.

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[Ennahdha Statement on Prosecution Arrest Warrant Against Journalist Samir Elwafi](#)

The public prosecution at the Tunis court of first instance issued an arrest warrant against journalist Samir Elwafi. Ennahdha Party expresses its concern at the journalist's arrests, and:

- Renews its affirmation of the need to protect freedom of expression and media as important gains and pillars of our young democracy.
- Calls for the release of the detained journalist and stresses its call for repealing all prison sentences related to media work as required in a democracy.
- Calls for revision of the legal system in line with the articles protecting rights and freedoms in the Constitution.

[Ennahdha Statement on Execution of Thirty Ethiopians by Terrorist Group in Libya](#)

A terrorist group in Libya has murdered thirty innocent Christian Ethiopians in a savage execution, contravening Islamic teachings and all international laws, principles and values.

The Ennahdha Party:

- Strongly condemns this atrocious crime against the lives of innocent Ethiopian workers and offers its condolences and support to their families and to Ethiopia's government and people.
- Affirms that there is no hostility between Islam and Christianity as claimed by these criminal gangs and that the actions of these groups are against the teachings and values of Islam that are based on dialogue and coexistence.
- Calls on everyone to support the Libyan national dialogue so as to enable the Libyan state to build its institutions, establish security in its territories and purge them of terrorist gangs.

In the News

[Reuters: US to Triple Military Aid to Tunisia](#)

Reuters reported that the United States will increase military aid to Tunisia threefold this year and help train its troops, a senior U.S. official said on April 10. The U.S. government aims to provide Tunisia with more equipment, weapons and technical support, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken said. "Our goal is to enhance their ability to defeat those who threaten the freedom and safety of the nation," he told a news conference after meeting Tunisian Prime Minister Habib Essid.

[Tunisia's Election Commission Releases Final Report on Historic 2014 Elections](#)

The report from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems included recommendations to address shortcomings recorded in the last elections in terms of filing for candidacy, funding, campaign control and electoral disputes. It emphasized the importance of revising the electoral law and launching as soon as possible the voter registration process to allow a greater number of Tunisians to participate in the municipal elections.

[Tunis to Host 5th Global Forum on Direct Democracy](#)

The 5th Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy will take place in the beautiful setting of Africa's oldest engineering institution, the Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie, which is part of the world-renowned University of Carthage in central Tunis. For all practical information regarding registration, accommodation, travel, related programs and the conference participations please visit 2015globalforum.com.

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[Global Policy Journal: Addressing Extremism - Lessons from Tunisia](#)

In the wake of the recent attack in Tunis, Dr. Rafik Abdessalem, Tunisia's former Foreign Minister, outlined why social and economic inclusion may be the best strategy for governments looking to address violent extremism. Published in the *Global Policy Journal*, the op-ed highlighted the need for greater Western support in Tunisia.

[Indian RSTV Interview with Rached Ghannouchi](#)

Sheikh Rached Ghannouchi was interviewed on Indian RSTV, on "Indian Standard Time" by Anchor, Siddharth Varadarajan. This broadcast interview explored Tunisia's progress since the Arab Spring and factors that led to its success in comparison to neighboring countries.

[Ghannouchi Speaks to Conference about Secularism, Fundamentalism and Violence in Africa](#)

At a conference in Ethiopia, Rached Ghannouchi spoke to an audience of over 200 people including heads of state on the security situation in Africa. In his speech, Ghannouchi assured that violence and terrorism have no religion or country. He stressed the need to move toward what unites African states in order to realize the expectations of their people in security, peace, dignity and development.

[Remarks on Tunisia by Deputy Secretary Antony Blinken at the Council on Foreign Relations](#)

Question: You did stop in Tunis, and this is – Tunis is – Tunisia is referred to as the ray of hope coming out of the Arab Spring, et cetera. And at the same time, we've seen some horrific terrorist activity there. We know that a lot of Tunisians have gone off to ISIS. And we keep our fingers crossed. Should we?

DEPUTY SECRETARY BLINKEN: Yes, but more than crossed. I think we keep our fingers crossed; we clap our hands, because they deserve it; and then we continue to support them in various – in very material ways as they move forward. You're right. To me, it really is a ray of hope in a number of ways. First, in terms of the wisdom of Tunisia's leaders who have come together in a consensus, inclusive government, bringing together secularists, Islamists, others, in an effort to move the country forward. And right now, at least, that's working. And there seems to be an understanding on the part of leaders in all camps with whom I had the opportunity to meet that working together, despite their very real differences, in an inclusive effort was the best path forward for their country, and also the best way to deal with the extremist problem that has emerged very much in Tunisia, as you rightly noted.

Unfortunately, the number of foreign fighters coming from Tunisia in Syria and Iraq probably cedes those of any other single country involved. And it's a real problem. But it is precisely because they have come together politically, and unlike a number of other countries that are either failed or failing states, they have a resilient state and resilient institutions, and also traditions and a history that's a little bit different. I think there's a real hope.

I went to the Bardo Museum, which was the site of the horrific terrorist attack that took the lives of 20 – almost all tourists, as well as some Tunisians. And I don't know if any of you have had the opportunity to go there, but it was my first time. In and of itself, the museum is one of the most extraordinary museums I've ever seen. The collection of mosaics from Roman and pre-Roman times is breathtaking. But to see in this one place the beauty, the culture, the civilization, and the history represented by those mosaics, and then the evil that came into that building and sought not only to kill innocent people but to destroy that sense of culture and civilization and history, and the aspirations of the Tunisian people for a better future, it's a very powerful thing. And what's even more powerful is to know that the building is still standing, the government and its institutions are still standing, and the people that I talk to in Tunisia are more determined than ever to move forward with this common project and to reject the extremism that has come and struck them.

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So I find that to be a profoundly hopeful situation. We are looking at significantly increasing the security assistance that we provide to Tunisia, basically doubling last year's budget, in the President's new budget. But across the board, when it comes to socioeconomic development, also doubling down on Tunisia and working with them as well to strengthen their institutions. The other challenge that's immediate and that we're grappling with in Tunisia is, of course, Libya, where many of the foreign fighters that are doing great damage in Libya also pose a threat to Tunisia itself.

So we talked a lot about all of those efforts, but to come back to where you started, I do think it's a ray of hope, and it's something that we have a real stake in helping shine even brighter. Because it won't just affect the future of Tunisians, which in and of itself is vitally important. But if Tunisia succeeds, it sends a very powerful message well beyond Tunisia's borders that there is real hope and that people with different views and different approaches actually can come together in a common endeavor, and the extremes are marginalized and isolated.

More: <http://www.state.gov/s/d/2015/240748.htm>.



Social Media

- [Ennahdha Party @EnnahdhaParty](#)
#Ennahdha president receives #US delegation led by Deputy @StateDept Secretary Antony Blinken & Ambassador to #Tunisia
- [Ennahdha Party @EnnahdhaParty](#)
"#Tunisia proves that democracy is possible in the Arab world, and that Islam and democracy are compatible"
- [Ennahdha Party @EnnahdhaParty](#)
#Ennahdha president #Ghannouchi & MP Samir Dilou receive @HRW delegation led by Executive Director @ KenRoth #Tunisia
- [Ennahdha International Page \(Official\) added 4 new photos](#)
#Ennahdha @AncEnnahdha & @ARPtN MPs on a Parliamentary visit in Brussels, welcomed by MEP @blochbihler
- [l'Instance Supérieure Indépendante pour les Élections @ISIE](#)
#Tunisia's Election Commission Releases Final Report on Historic 2014 Elections
<http://goo.gl/J8V4jB> @IFES1987 #ISIE #TnElec2014
- [UN Human Rights @UNrightswire](#)
Transition in #Tunisia: a model for the region and beyond – UN Human Rights chief #Zeid - sm.ohchr.org/1D5MWJd
- [Middle East Monitor @MiddleEastMnt](#)
#Ghannouchi: #ISIS and Al-#Qaeda will fail <https://t.co/p26lyHDDDea>
- [Ethiopian Diplomacy @mfaethiopia](#)
Al Ghannouchi: #Tunisia has shown the world that #Democracy and #Islam are not enemies #tanaforum

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Profile of the Week: Houcine Jaziri



Houcine Jaziri, born on July 2, 1968 in Zarzis, is a Tunisian academic and politician.

In 1988, Houcine Jaziri passed his baccalaureate, before studying Philosophy at Tunis University until 1990. He became a student activist and member of the Islamic Tendency Movement (later Ennahdha) and its spokesperson within his university. He continued his studies in Morocco, then in France, where he graduated in Philosophy.

In France, he set up an institute for teaching Arabic and Arab-Muslim culture, which he directed until his return to Tunisia in 2011.

He has been a member of Ennahdha political bureau since 1993. In 2005, then exiled in France, he participated in the writing of the October 18 Movement statement, the movement bringing together liberal, leftist, nationalist and Islamic political parties opposed to Ben Ali's regime.

After the fall of the regime during the 2011 revolution Jaziri returned to Tunisia. In February 2011, he became a member of the High Electoral Committee within the party. He is also a member of the Consultative Council, the highest body within the party. In December 2011, he was appointed Junior Minister at the Ministry of Social Affairs, in charge of Immigration and Tunisians Abroad, and fulfilled this function until early 2014. The same year he also became a member of Ennahdha executive bureau.

He was elected as member of the Assembly of the People's Representatives on October 26, 2014 and is a member of the APR bureau in charge of external affairs.

Jaziri is married and has three children.

Ennahdha Party

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A Word from Rached Ghannouchi, President, Ennahdha Party



Rached Ghannouchi

Rached Ghannouchi on preventing migrant deaths:

The shocking events off the Mediterranean coast are only the latest in a series of catastrophic migrant shipwrecks this year. Civil War, economic stagnation, and political upheaval have pushed people to take on huge risks. More must be done to help protect vulnerable migrants.

In order to address these problems, the European Union and governments in Europe and Africa must find and invest in solutions to the root causes of this wave of migration. This means fully understanding the factors which push people of all ages, faiths and backgrounds to risk their lives by embarking upon a dangerous journey with an uncertain outcome. We must take action together, implementing economic, security and civil society initiatives that provide a safer, more prosperous and more equitable future in Africa.

Without a long-term strategy to address these problems, these tragic events will sadly happen again. A joint summit is needed to develop a short term and a long term strategy to tackle this problem.

In the meantime we in the Ennahdha Party offer our condolences to all those affected by the loss of lives in the shipwreck in the Mediterranean, and pray that these tragic events will not happen again.

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Ennahdha Party

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Recent Highlights

- [Statement of the Ennahdha Consultative Council's 37th Meeting](#)
- [Ennahdha Statement on Labor Day](#)
- [Ennahdha Statement on the Earthquake in Nepal](#)
- [Ghannouchi Op-Ed in *Boston Globe*: Progress in Tunisia, but Much Still to be Done](#)
- [Foreign Direct Investment in Tunisia Rises 24% in Q1 2015](#)
- [Carter Center Releases Report on the Constitution-Making Process in Tunisia](#)
- [Freedom House: Tunisia Leads Arab World in Freedom of the Press](#)
- [Ghannouchi and Essebsi to Receive Joint Award for Peacebuilding](#)

Ennahdha Updates

[Statement of the Ennahdha Consultative Council's 37th Meeting](#)

Ennahdha Party's Consultative Council held its 37th session between May 1-3 2015, during which it discussed a number of issues related to the general situation in the country and preparations for the Party's extraordinary tenth congress.

Following deliberations on the various reports and projects presented, the Council:

- Congratulates Tunisian workers on international Labor Day and applauds their role in developing the country to meet Tunisians' aspirations of creating prosperity and achieving development.
- Pays tribute to journalists in Tunisia on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, emphasizing the Party's conviction that our country and our nascent democracy need free media that contribute to consolidating human rights and freedoms and freedom of expression.
- Expresses its deep concern over the fate of the two Tunisian journalists kidnapped in Libya, Sofien Chourabi and Nadir Gtari, and renews its solidarity with their families.
- Expresses its great concern over the increasing difficulty of economic conditions in the country and the deterioration of citizens' purchasing power, particularly for low-income groups.
- Calls for developing the national dialogue on educational reform to make it a broad societal dialogue that does not exclude anyone.
- Renews its call for respecting the principles and articles of the Constitution in relation to rights and freedoms as important gains of the revolution for which many Tunisians sacrificed their lives. The Council calls for the revision of all laws and draft laws which undermine in any way the freedoms of Tunisians.
- Values the initiative of the parties in the coalition government to establish a consultation and coordination committee to support the government's efforts in fulfilling the tasks of this phase, and stresses the importance of consolidating the approach of partnership in government.
- Regarding preparations for the Party's extraordinary tenth general congress, the Council underlines the importance of this congress which is to take place in a national context in which the country is heading towards major milestones on the path of consolidating its democratic foundations and achieving development, and within a regional context in which democracy has not yet taken root.

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[Ennahdha Statement on Labor Day](#)

On Friday May 1, 2015, Tunisians celebrated International Labor Day, an anniversary representing a symbol of the human struggle for dignity and social justice.

As it joins the celebrations of this day, Ennahdha:

- Congratulates all workers in all fields on Labor Day and celebrates their role in creating wealth and building the country.
- Stresses the national responsibility of trade unions, at the forefront of which is the Tunisian General Union of Workers, to defend the rights of workers and contribute to establishing social peace, thus reinstating the health of economic establishments and reinvigorating development.
- Reaffirms its support of the right of the unemployed of all backgrounds and across all regions to employment that preserves their dignity and enables them to be effective actors in development and benefit from social justice.
- Calls for the establishment of the social dimension of citizenship in addition to the political dimension, through stressing the value of work and regaining its culture and through balancing rights and demands with the duty of work and productivity.
- Calls for activating the national council for social dialogue with the participation of all stakeholders in order to elaborate a national strategy for social development, investment and reform of public administration in order to bring the country out of the spiral of tensions and the danger of stagnation.
- Stresses the necessity of reducing tension between the various social actors through dialogue and consensus-building, the approach with which we managed our political differences and thanks to which we created the Tunisian exception. It is essential that we commit to the same approach to reach agreement on a development model that brings the country out of its crisis and opens for its youth new horizons for development and prosperity.

[Ennahdha Statement on the Earthquake in Nepal](#)

Following the deadly earthquake in Nepal which resulted in thousands of deaths and injuries, millions of homeless people and the destruction of large parts of the country, Ennahdha Party:

- Presents its condolences and expresses its full solidarity with the Nepalese people.
- Calls on civil society associations and all people of good-will in Tunisia to provide aid to the eight million victims who are in dire need of food and shelter, and calls on the Tunisian government to facilitate this aid and to support the rescue efforts and the search for bodies under the rubble.
- Calls on the international community to assume its humanitarian responsibility and help Nepal to overcome the effects of this earthquake and rebuild the country.

In the News

[Boston Globe: Ghannouchi Op-Ed – “Progress in Tunisia, but Much Still to be Done”](#)

Published in the *Boston Globe*, Rached Ghannouchi set out the challenges facing Tunisia following the Bardo attacks. He acknowledged that more needs to be done to address the sense of disenfranchisement held by Tunisian youth in order to address violent extremism. Central to this is the notion of moderate Islam, which he says represents the antidote to radical extremism. The Ennahdha Party president also emphasized the need to protect rights and freedoms and human rights while countering terrorism.

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[Reuters: Foreign Direct Investment in Tunisia Rises in Q1 2015](#)

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Tunisia rose 24 percent in the first quarter of 2015, year-on-year, government figures showed on Monday. The figure for that period, from January to March, was 396 million Tunisian dinars (\$206 million), the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency said. The manufacturing industry drew most of the investment flow, followed by the services sector, it said.

[Carter Center Report: The Constitution-Making Process in Tunisia](#)

The Carter Center posted a final report on the Constitution-making process in Tunisia. The report includes an executive summary and then in-depth analysis of the drafting process; communication and outreach to the public; transparency and accountability; external engagement in the process; key issues in the Constitution; conclusions and recommendations; and implementation of the Constitution.

[Freedom House Report: Tunisia Leads Arab World in Freedom of the Press](#)

Freedom House released its 2015 Freedom of the Press report, with Tunisia garnering the best score of any Arab country in more than a decade, coming in at 48 out of 199 countries. Lebanon, which came in at 55, Kuwait, at 59, and Tunisia are the only countries within the Arab world classified as "Partly Free" by the annual study.

[International Crisis Group: Ghannouchi and Essebsi to Receive Joint Award for Peacebuilding](#)

The International Crisis Group has named Rached Ghannouchi and Beji Caid Essebsi as joint recipients of the Founder's Award for "pioneers in peacebuilding." The two are chosen for "their unwavering dedication to pluralism, inclusion and compromise during Tunisia's democratic transition." Ghannouchi and Essebsi are among seven who are being awarded by the International Crisis Group for their efforts towards peacebuilding. A gala will be held in New York this October to honor the recipients.

Social Media

- [Ennahdha Party @EnnahdhaParty - May 7](#)
#Ennahdha congratulates the Jewish community on the start of the #Ghriba pilgrimage, wishing them a successful &...
<http://fb.me/3y8se8Gi7>
- [Democracy Intl - April 30](#)
@FreedomHouseDC finds #Tunisia's freedom of press maintains best score in Arab world <http://bit.ly/1I0o8KH> #mediadev @GlobalForumDD
- [Ennahdha International Page - April 30](#)
#Ennahdha president meets #EU Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn & EU ambassador to #Tunisia Laura Baeza
- [Ennahdha Party @EnnahdhaParty - April 29](#)
#Germany President Gauck: "#Tunisia has taken huge steps towards democratization, but it should now strengthen this democracy."
- [GlobeOpinion - April 27](#)
@EnnahdhaParty President Rached Ghannouchi: Progress in #Tunisia, but much still to be done <http://ow.ly/Msyu0>



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Profile of the Week



Wassila Zoghalmi

Wassila Zoghalmi, born on May 22, 1964 has been the Head of the Central Bureau for Women and Families within Ennahdha Party since July 2012. She is a member of the executive bureau and the Consultative Council, the highest decision-making body within the party. She completed her secondary studies in the region of Kef, and then graduated in Islamic Sciences from Zitouna University in Tunis in 1988. She taught Arabic in Oued Ellil public high school in the governorate of Manouba. Zoghalmi is now completing her Masters' degree in Jurisprudence and Legal Policy.

She became a leader of the Movement of the Islamic Tendency, which later became Ennahdha. Her husband was arrested and jailed for sixteen years by the Ben Ali regime, and she was also arrested and held in the Bouchoucha detention center for a number of months in 1983. After the revolution and until the party congress in July 2012, she was Chair of the Regional Mniha District of Bit Elmouna and Attaouen associations, which work to support orphans and the poor. Since 2013, she has represented Tunisia at the General Secretariat of the International Muslim Women's Union.

A word from Rached Ghannouchi, President, Ennahdha Party



Rached Ghannouchi

Rached Ghannouchi on progress in Tunisia:

Tunisians never expected the democratic journey to be easy. We are proud that our country is a beacon of hope in an otherwise chaotic region and that we have conducted two successive democratic transitions since the Arab Awakening. Yet, the recent deaths of 22 innocent people in the Bardo Museum terror attack in Tunis are a grim reminder of the work that lies ahead of us — work we are more resolved than ever to complete.

Violent extremism is a multi-dimensional problem that has been decades in the making, and unemployment and inequality are breeding grounds for anger and violence. Indeed, such anger drove our youth to rebel against Ben Ali, Tunisia's former dictator whose despotic rule sparked the revolution. Our youth are still waiting to fulfill their expectations, and this requires massive policy reforms and the curbing of monopolies and corruption.

However, we need to focus not just on a cure for violent extremism, but also a way to prevent such behavior. It is a complex phenomenon that requires social, cultural/religious, and political solutions. Confronting distorted interpretations of Islam that have no foundation or legitimacy is essential, and in our view, democratic Islam is the best antithesis to extremism. It challenges the black-and-white view put forward by extremists, and debunks their claims to authenticity by presenting an interpretation of Islam that is grounded in religious text and open to the needs and context of modern democratic life.

That the Tunisian model — harmony between Islam and democracy, security, and human rights, stability and prosperity — succeeds is important not just for Tunisia, but for global security. Compromising democracy and human rights for stability and security is short-sighted and will only boost the long-term appeal of terrorist groups. Tunisians defeated decades of dictatorship, we can surely defeat terrorism. We remain strong.

For further information or interview requests, please contact:

media_english@nahdha.tn | [Facebook.com/Nahdha.International](https://www.facebook.com/Nahdha.International) | [@ennahdhaparty](https://twitter.com/ennahdhaparty)

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Recent Highlights

- [Ennahdha Statement on Egypt Death Sentences Against Morsi and FJP & MB leaders](#)
- [US Upgrades Tunisia to a Major Non-NATO Ally](#)
- [Secretary of State John Kerry and Tunisian Minister Sign Memorandum of Understanding](#)
- [Presidents Obama and Essebsi Write Op-ed on "Helping Tunisia Realize its Democratic Promise"](#)
- [Sixty US Experts Urge Increased Support for Tunisia](#)
- [Atlantic Council Discusses "Why America Needs to Support Tunisia Now"](#)
- [Dr. Rafik Abdessalem Speaks with CNN International's Amanpour Program](#)
- [Sayida Ounissi Speaks with Huffington Post on the Changing Face of Tunisia's Political Identity](#)
- ["Islam Does Not Judge" – An Interview with Rached Ghannouchi on Human Rights](#)
- ["Journey from Repression to the Tunisian Parliament" – An Interview with Yamina Zoghalmi](#)
- [Imen Ben Mohamed Speaks with Mediterranean Affairs about Support for Tunisia](#)
- [Tunisia Praised at 2015 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy](#)

Ennahdha Updates

[Ennahdha Statement on Egypt Death Sentences Against Morsi and FJP & MB leaders](#)

On May 16, 2015, an Egyptian court issued death sentences against former Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi and dozens of leading members of the Freedom and Justice Party and the Muslim Brotherhood in an unprecedented unjust sentence against a democratically-elected president. The new collective death sentences are part of a continuous crackdown on a political opponent and instrumental of the judiciary to that end.

The Ennahdha Party:

- Condemns these unjust collective sentences against Dr. Mohamed Morsi who had come to power by the free will of the Egyptian people, and against the other defendants who represent a principal political trend on the Egyptian scene.
- Calls for repealing the sentences against Morsi and his co-defendants and for desisting from using the judiciary against political rivals, and calls on all human rights and humanitarian organisations and all freedom-loving people around the world to act towards achieving that.
- Stresses the necessity of finding space for national dialogue and supporting all reconciliation initiatives without any exclusion of any Egyptian trend in order to end political division, far from confrontation and its dangerous repercussions on Egypt's unity and people.

In the News

[US Upgrades Tunisia to a Major Non-NATO Ally](#)

President Barack Obama announced Thursday that Tunisia will be named a major non-NATO ally of the United States, a designation that gives the country access to extra military assistance. President Obama noted that of the countries that witnessed Arab Spring-spurred changes, Tunisia has seen "the most important progress in allowing all parties and all parts of the population, including women and minorities, to be included in the governing process." The White House fact sheet on U.S.-Tunisian relations can be viewed [here](#).

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[Secretary of State John Kerry and Tunisian Minister Sign Memorandum of Understanding](#)

The State Department issued remarks on Tunisian Minister for Political Affairs Mohsen Marzouk and Secretary John Kerry signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Tunisia and the U.S. Secretary Kerry said, "By signing this memorandum of understanding we are making clear America's commitment to support Tunisia's democratic transition, and that backing is not solely in words. This document reflects the breadth and the depth of the commitment that we are making. Our cooperation and our assistance will cover a wide range of programs and areas of regional economic development, of security, people-to-people ties. And the provisions of this memorandum will also strengthen respect for rule of law and build capacity for rule of law, human rights, and social and political inclusion; and it will bolster a country leadership team that has really been steadfast in its support of Tunisia's remarkable democratic progress."

[Washington Post Op-ed: "Helping Tunisia Realize its Democratic Promise"](#)

An op-ed in *The Washington Post* by President Barack Obama and Tunisian President Béji Caïd Essebsi argues that Tunisia shows democracy is not only possible but also necessary in North Africa and the Middle East, and that today's national unity government proves that democracy and Islam can thrive together. The U.S. is committed to helping Tunisia consolidate its democratic gains and ensure that Tunisia's political revolution is followed by an economic revolution. It concluded, "But as Tunisians seek to build the Arab world's newest democracy, they will continue to have a strong friend and partner in the world's oldest democracy, the United States of America."

[Sixty US Experts Urge Increased Support for Tunisia](#)

On the eve of President Obama's meeting with Béji Caïd Essebsi, 60 Tunisia and MENA region experts sent an open letter to President Obama urging him and his administration to provide much support for Tunisia—the one country undertaking a successful and promising democratic transition in the entire region of the Middle East and North Africa. The letter called for both economic assistance and international assistance to deal with thousands of refugees and said, "The best antidote to the rise of extremism in the region is not further arming of local factions. It is seeking and encouraging democratic outcomes."

[Atlantic Council: Why America Needs to Support Tunisia Now](#)

Published on the *National Interest* website and in Atlantic Council, Karim Mezran and Lara Talverdian set out the arguments for continued international support for Tunisia. According to the article, the United States can help to build a solid foundation for the U.S.-Tunisia relationship by supporting Tunisia's economic growth and helping to strengthen its civil society. Despite the progress made over the last few years, the article argues that international help is drastically needed.

[CNN Interview with Dr. Rafik Abdessalem](#)

CNN's Hala Gorani interviewed Ennahdha's head of external relations and Tunisia's former Foreign Minister Dr. Rafik Abdessalem. Dr. Abdessalem discussed how Tunisia is overcoming challenges in the country to continue its success of democratic consolidation and progress.

[Huffington Post: "Sayida Ounissi Is the Face of Tunisia's Changing Political Identity"](#)

Published in the *Huffington Post*, Monica Ben Hamadi sat down with Sayida Ounissi, Ennahdha MP for the North France constituency, to talk about her political and personal evolution and her views on Tunisia's future over the next 10 years. The article describes Ounissi, a political science graduate from the Sorbonne, as a "young, modern and educated woman" and "a noteworthy figure in the party." The article also refers to the Ennahdha party's role in the democratic process and its "stepping down to facilitate completion of Tunisia's democratic transition."

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["Islam Does Not Judge" – An Interview with Rached Ghannouchi on Human Rights](#)

In an interview with Correspondents.org, Rached Ghannouchi openly addressed several sensitive issues including the niqab, homosexuality and the government's performance. In regards to the democratic transition in Tunisia, Mr Ghannouchi argued that Tunisia has yielded huge successes by adopting conformity rather than competition and conflict, and this is partly due to the work of the Ennahdha Movement, which was one of the first parties to adopt conformity.

["Journey from Repression to the Tunisian Parliament" – An Interview with Yamina Zoghlami](#)

An article in the *Middle East Monitor* highlighted the history of the Ennahdha movement in an interview with Yamina Zoghlami. The Tunisian parliamentarian is a strong advocate for women's rights and continues her campaign for gender parity and quotas for women's equal representation within the Tunisian political system.

[Mediterranean Affairs Interview with Imen Ben Mohamed](#)

In an interview with *Mediterranean Affairs*, Imen Ben Mohamed, an Ennahdha member of the Tunisian National Constituent Assembly and the Maghreb Shura –Consultative– Council. She spoke about the various distinguishing factors that makes Tunisia stand out compared to neighboring states, the threat of terrorism, and the need for greater EU support. In regards to EU investment she argued that "to invest in Tunisia by implementing neighborhood policies is not only an investment on Tunisian democracy but also one on the stabilization of the entire region and the entire Europe."

[Tunisia Praised at 2015 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy](#)

Following four days of meetings at the University of Carthage's INAT campus where direct democracy, participation and decentralization were discussed, the 2015 Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy released a statement on the progress of democracy in Tunisia. Although the Tunisian model was widely praised, it was recognized that more work needs to be done to achieve a true participatory democracy.

Social Media

- [Yusra Ghannouchi @yusraghkh · May 20](#)
#Tunisia's women politicians prepare to seize their chance in local polls | Simon Speakman Cordall <http://gu.com/p/48pid/stw>
- [Imen Ben Mohamed @ImenBenMohamed · 19 May](#)
Foreign Affairs committee with a delegation from @RANDCorporation to discuss economic cooperation #Tunisia #USA
- [Joe Mathews @joemathews · May 18](#)
At end of #globfor15, we issued the "Tunis Declaration," a powerful statement on democracy & participation. <http://2015globalforum.com/globalforum/welcome/>
- [Sayida Ounissi @SaidaOunissi · May 16](#)
Say salam to @NahdhaTunisie new spokesman, the MP @OsamaAlSaghir "Young people, great responsibilities" :)



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- [ALM Congress Pulse @CongressPulse · May 15](#)
.@SenatorCardin leads letter to Obama urging multi-year aid package for #Tunisia ahead of visit by Prez Essebsi <http://www.foreign.senate.gov/download/5-15-15-blc-letter-to-potus-on-tunisia>
- [Ennahdha Party @EnnahdhaParty · May 15](#)
#Tunisia Parliament adopts law on formation of the Supreme Judicial Council- important step towards establishment of constitutional bodies
- [2015 Global Forum @GlobalForumDD · May 15](#)
There is no contradiction between people power and Islam underlines Rached Ghannouchi at #globfor15 #citizenpower
- [Yusra Ghannouchi @yusraghkh · May 12](#)
Will #Tunisia's Democracy Survive? A View from Political Demography
- [Jackson Diehl \(@JacksonDiehl\) May 11](#)
My column breaks down the steps in Tunisia's road map to democracy. Can other Arab states follow them? <http://t.co/H1oR89mVDW>

Profile of the Week: Naoufel Eljammali



Aged only 38, Naoufel Eljammali, a lawyer and skilled linguist – fluent in Arabic, French and English - was at the head of the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training under Ali Larayedh's government. Eljammali was a Professor at the Law University of Sfax since 2004, then became Director of International Cooperation and International Affairs in the Ministry of

Employment and Vocational Training in 2012. He is also preparing a thesis in International Law at the Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Studies of Tunis. He obtained a degree in Law at the same university in 1997 and a Masters Degree in Legal Sciences in 1999. In June 2001 he obtained a PhD in

Community Law and Euro-Maghreb relations from the same university. He has been a member of the Laboratory of Research on European Law and Euro-Maghreb Relations since 2005, and is a founder member of the Trade Union Bureau of Sfax University of Law.

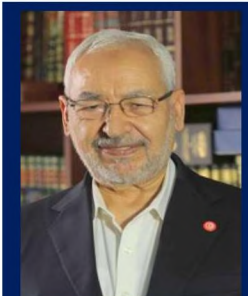
At the Assembly of the People's Representatives, he serves as Vice-Chair of the Permanent Commission on Rights and Liberties and External Relations. As part of his mandate, he is examining the draft organic bill on the right of access to information, a key piece of legislation. Born in Tunis, Naoufel Eljammali was on the Sidi Bouzid Ennahdha legislative elections list as an independent candidate. He was elected with 18,990 votes.

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A Word from Rached Ghannouchi, President, Ennahdha Party



Rached
Ghannouchi

Rached Ghannouchi on progress in Tunisia:

Tunisia has made remarkable progress in building the foundations of democracy, and although there is much more to do, it is important to recognize the positive developments that continue to happen in Tunisia.

Our legislative body, the Assembly of People's Representatives, continues to discuss new bills aimed at reforming laws to bring them into harmony with our new Constitution and to consolidate our democracy through the establishment of constitutional bodies. Just last week, the Assembly adopted a new law of great importance, namely the law for the formation of the Supreme Judicial Council, aimed at ensuring judicial independence and citizens' trust in the legal system, a far cry from the former regime's instrumentalization of the judiciary to serve its ends. The unjust sentencing of Egypt's first democratically-elected president this week demonstrates the danger of such instrumentalization.

One of the largest challenges for Tunisia is how to successfully empower its citizens, and one critical way to do that is through decentralisation and bringing democracy closer to the citizen. I hope that the Assembly will soon begin to draft the necessary laws and mechanisms needed to hold our country's first democratic local elections. These elections and other measures would translate our Constitution's emphasis on citizen empowerment. Decentralisation and direct democracy were the topic of the lecture I was honoured to deliver last week at the Global Forum on Direct Democracy in Tunis. I emphasised that direct democracy is the highest embodiment of the important Muslim principle of shura (consultation) and that our democratic vision supports citizen engagement and empowerment, distribution of power and strengthening civil society.

We also continue to reach out and engage with our European partners, discussing wide regional problems such as immigration with the EU Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris Avramopoulos who was recently in Tunis to discuss ways in which we can solve these problems together. This points to an overall willingness to engage to generate shared solutions to shared challenges, as demonstrated by President Essebsi's important visit to the U.S. this week.

To support Tunisia's democratic progress, the international community must continue to play a larger role in strengthening our democratic transition. The challenges of development, immigration and terrorism are not particular to the MENA region, and must be addressed in a holistic and balanced way in order to ensure long-term stability for Tunisia and the wider world.

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Recent Highlights

- [Ennahdha Statement on Tunisia Governing Coalition Parties](#)
- [White House Publishes Fact Sheet on Enduring US-Tunisian Relations](#)
- [Columnist Discusses Direct Democracy in Tunisia as a Model for California](#)
- [Washington Post: Survey Results Find Tunisian Voters Balance Security and Freedom](#)
- [Tunisia's Newly Formed Truth Commission Begins Hearing Testimonies from Victims](#)
- [New York Times: Women in Tunisia Tell of Decades of Police Cruelty, Violence and Rape](#)
- [NATO and Tunisia Take Cooperation Forward](#)
- [Pejtun Project "Decent Jobs for Tunisian Youth" Officially Launched](#)

Ennahdha Updates

[Tunisia Governing Coalition Parties Statement](#)

The government coalition parties' coordination and consultation committee met on May 20, 2015 at Ennahdha Party's headquarters and was chaired by Mr. Rached Ghannouchi.

The general situation in the country was discussed, and satisfaction was expressed at the security situation and the efforts made by the national army and security services to combat terrorism and crime. Concerning the social and economic situation, the four parties agreed on the necessity to deal with the difficulties and social crisis caused by protests and the continued obstruction of production in the mining basin region.

The coordination committee also agreed to call for a social dialogue national conference with the participation of all political and social actors which will focus on the social situation and outline our country's needs in order to develop economic and social structures across all regions of the country so that Tunisia makes a new success in addition to that achieved in the political field by achieving successful development that eliminates unemployment and places Tunisia on the path to prosperity.

The coordination committee also stressed the need to put in place the specialised frameworks for the development of the committee's work including workshops on local government and decentralisation, supporting parliamentary work, involvement in the educational dialogue process, addressing shortcomings and vacancies in local authorities and preparations for economic structural reforms.

The coalition parties agreed to hold a joint press conference to clarify their stance on a number of national issues.

In the News

[White House Publishes Fact Sheet on Enduring US-Tunisian Relations](#)

The White House published a fact sheet on enduring U.S.-Tunisian relations that outlined the range of cooperative activities between the two countries after signing a Memorandum of Understanding on May 20. It said, "This year, President Obama is working with Congress to provide at least \$100 million in assistance to Tunisia, which would bring our total support since the 2011 revolution to nearly \$700 million. This reflects the importance placed by the United States on supporting Tunisia's democracy as it promotes prosperity and security for all Tunisians."

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[Columnist Discusses Direct Democracy in Tunisia as a Model for California](#)

Published on the Zocalo Public Square website and republished in California newspapers, Joe Mathews discussed how California can learn from the model of direct democracy espoused by Tunisia. He wrote that "in the most striking speech" of a forum he attended in Tunis, "The co-founder of the moderate Islamist party Ennahdha, Rached Ghannouchi, made a powerful case that Islam is itself a form of direct democracy. He argued that the concept of shura, or consultation, mirrors direct democracy in that both require that people in power listen and learn, especially to those most affected, before making decisions."

[Washington Post: Survey Finds Tunisian Voters Balance Security and Freedom](#)

The Washington Post published an op-ed by two Princeton University PhD candidates that discussed the results of a poll of Tunisian voters in the run-up to last year's parliamentary vote. Conducted in partnership with the Tunisian NGO Sawty, Sawt Chabeb Tounes, the survey found that despite the major challenges and insecurity the country has experienced since 2011, a significant portion of Tunisians still remember the revolution for the positive changes it led to as measured by the democratic rights they gained by mobilizing against the former regime.

[Tunisia's Newly Formed Truth and Dignity Commission Begins Hearing Testimonies from Victims](#)

Tunisia's newly formed Truth and Dignity Commission announced May 27 that it has begun to hear testimony from victims of the country's post-independence dictatorships. "We announce the start of hearings, behind closed doors, of testimony from victims of violations of human rights," Truth and Dignity Commission President Sihem Bensedrine told reporters.

[New York Times: Women in Tunisia Tell of Decades of Police Cruelty, Violence and Rape](#)

Published in the *New York Times*, Carlotta Gall outlined the decades of abuse and police brutality that occurred in Tunisia during the reigns of two dictatorships —Habib Bourguiba and then Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. Most of the people who have come forward have been men, but as Gall writes, a large number of women are starting to tell stories of extreme cruelty, sexual violence and rape. The Truth and Dignity Commission has begun this week public hearings in June with the goal of exposing the violations, making reparations and holding the abusers accountable in a search for national reconciliation.

[NATO and Tunisia Take Cooperation Forward](#)

The NATO Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Alexander Vershbow welcomed Tunisia's Prime Minister Habib Essid to NATO Headquarters on May 28 to review the partnership between NATO and Tunisia. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss how to further develop the partnership between NATO and Tunisia in areas of mutual interest, including counter-terrorism and military education and training.

[Pejtun Project "Decent Jobs for Tunisian Youth" Officially Launched](#)

A cooperation agreement between Tunisia and the International Labour Organization (ILO) was signed last week in Gammarth as part of the official launch of the PEJTUN project, "decent jobs for Tunisia youth." The document was signed by Minister of Vocational Training and Employment Zied Laadhari and Director of ILO Office for Maghreb countries Mohamed Ali Deyahi, with attendance of representatives of the Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT) and the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (UTICA).

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Social Media

- [@EnnahdhaParty · May 31](#)
#Ennahdha members in Menzah local branch discuss #Ghannouchi's book "Approaches to Secularism, Civil Society" #Tunisia
- [Amb. Fredrik Florén @FredrikPFloren · May 28](#)
I like the metaphor "#Tunisia steers #Europe," thinking of Autoliv's Tunisian production of wheels & air bags for all major car brands.
- [@EnnahdhaParty · May 25](#)
#Ennahdha MP Dr Hayet Omri wins three top awards at international inventors competition in Cannes #France #Tunisia
- [@EnnahdhaParty · May 23](#)
#Ennahdha president meets #UK @foreignoffice #MENA minister @Tobias_Ellwood
- [IRI @IRIglobal · May 22](#)
Proud to host members of President Essebsi's delegation today. #Tunisia @afektn @ennahdhaparty @nidaa_tounes
- [@EnnahdhaParty · May 21](#)
#Ennahdha president receives board of @RANDCorporation led by president & CEO Michael DRich
- [@yusraghkh · May 20](#)
#Tunisia's women politicians prepare to seize their chance in local polls | Simon Speakman Cordall <http://gu.com/p/48pjd/stw>



Profile of the Week: Jamila Debbech Ksiksi



Jamila
Debbech Ksiksi

Jamila Debbech Ksiksi, born on August 14, 1968 in Medenine and elected in 2014 to the Assembly of the People's Representatives in the same constituency, went to primary and secondary school in her home town and passed her baccalaureate in 1990. She continued her studies at the Higher Institute for Management in Tunis, then going on to graduate as an accountant from the Higher Institute for Business Studies of Carthage. She was an official at the National Social Security Fund between 1993 and 2005, then Head of Department at the National Health Insurance Fund from 2006 to 2014. She was also a founding member of the first trade union of the Fund in 2007.

Jamila has always been active in civil society, and is one of the founders of the cultural organization "Al Qaf," as well as one of the founders and former president of the Civil Pole Network for Development and Human Rights and treasurer at the Center of Study of Islam and Democracy.

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She is a member of the Ennahdha parliamentary group and a member of the assembly's Committee on Health and Social Affairs, rapporteur of the Commission for Administrative Reform, Good Governance and the Fight against Corruption and Supervision and Management of Public Funds. She is also in charge of training within the Ennahdha parliamentary group. Jamila has been a member of the Pan-African Parliament since May 2015. Recently, she spoke out against racism after racist incidents took place during a football match in Tunis.

She is married and has one daughter.

A word from Rached Ghannouchi, President, Ennahdha Party



Rached Ghannouchi on progress in Tunisia:

Despite the numerous threats facing the region, there is a lot to be optimistic about in Tunisia. We have a young, well educated population, and as the future of the country, we must continue to work hard to support them. The youth of Tunisia represent our strongest asset, and are therefore at the heart of our public policies.

Zied Ladhari, the Tunisian Employment Minister and member of the Ennahdha Party, has recently announced the creation of a public consultation on the vision of Tunisia's future, including ways to improve coaching and mentoring programs to train young people in the various skills needed for the labor market.

This national strategy on human resources is greatly needed, and we are working with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education on this. We also need to improve the governance and infrastructure of education institutions to make them favorable for learning and development, and we are working on retraining programs to enable professional conversion from one specialization to another. Through initiatives like this we hope to fully realize the ambitions of our young people.

As Mr. Ladhari has set out in a recent speech in Paris, "The Social Contract that was in place before is broken, and we are putting in place a new one which involves all Tunisians in creating a new vision." Indeed, political consensus is vital for our democratic transition and by inviting everyone to give their ideas and contributions for this common vision, we are showing how far Tunisia has come and how it continues to move towards an inclusive participatory democracy.

Through a combination of internal reform and external support, Tunisia can continue to represent the sole success of the Arab Spring, as well as an example to other regional states that Democracy in the Middle East and North Africa can succeed.

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movement
ENNAHDHA



Recent Highlights

- [Governing Coalition Parties' Statement on Court Ruling on Confiscation Decree](#)
- [Ennahdha Statement on the 34th Anniversary of its Establishment](#)
- [Ennahdha Statement following Terrorist Attacks in Bir el-Hfay](#)
- [New York Times Editorial: Confronting the Past in Tunisia](#)
- [The National: Tunisia Begins to Reconcile itself with its Grim Past](#)
- [NATO and Tunisia Reaffirm Willingness to Deepen Cooperation](#)
- [Foreign Policy: Time to Engage with Tunisia](#)

Ennahdha Updates

[Governing Coalition Parties' Statement on Court Ruling on Confiscation Decree](#)

On June 12, 2015, representatives of the governing coalition parties' coordination and consultation committee met to discuss the ruling of the administrative court of first instance of Tunis regarding annulment of the confiscation decree issued after the revolution against figures of the former regime, and the negative consequences of this ruling. Based on the responsibility of their parties to defend the people's interests, combat corruption, protect the aims of the revolution, build a democratic state and confront all those who wish to undermine the process of building a state based on the rule of law, they stressed the following:

- Their parties' support of the government's decision to appeal this court ruling and to devote all resources to repealing it.
- Their call on the government and the Assembly of the People's Representatives to undertake the necessary additional measures to protect the rights of Tunisians and achievements of their revolution.
- Their respect of the judiciary as an independent power establishing the rule of law.
- Their continued monitoring of this issue and their readiness to respond to all developments in order to protect the interests of our country and our people.

[Ennahdha Statement on the 34th Anniversary of its Establishment](#)

As Ennahdha celebrates the thirty-fourth anniversary of its establishment, it is important to reflect upon the Tunisian experience, as Tunisia continues to be referred to as the sole success of the Arab Spring following successive free and fair elections. Ennahdha notes again that our transition has passed through difficult moments which risked all the gains achieved. It also notes that Tunisians' path to stable democracy, sustainable development and social justice is still threatened, unless political and social actors achieve a balance between establishing rights and fulfilling duties in circumstances where work has decreased and lost its value, production of wealth has declined while calls for its redistribution have multiplied, defiance of the law has increased as well as undermining of the state in a way that threatens to dismantle it, while terrorism remains a principal danger.

With the success of the democratic transition as a goal, consensus-building as a method, Tunisians must succeed to create wealth and distribute it fairly. Ennahdha looks forward to contributing with full responsibility to the building of a nation where dictatorship had all but killed hope and where the revolution has brought it back to life.

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[Ennahdha Statement Following Terrorist Attacks in Bir el-Hfay](#)

On Monday June 15, 2015, a National Guard checkpoint in the region of Bir el-Hfay in the Governorate of Sidi Bouzid was attacked, killing two National Guards. A third was killed in a second attack while he was on his way to secure the final school examination. A number of citizens were injured in the two attacks. The Ennahdha Party:

- Prays for those who have lost their lives and presents its most sincere condolences to their families and loved ones and wishes a speedy recovery to those injured.
- Strongly condemns the crime committed against the National Guards and reiterates that terrorism and its gangs will surely be defeated.
- Renews its support for the national security services - National Guards, the army, and the police. It stresses that this terrorist crime will only increase our people's solidarity, unity and determination to fight against these gangs until they are fully defeated.
- Renews its call for urgently initiating a national dialogue through a national conference that would set a comprehensive strategy for fighting terrorism.

In the News

[New York Times Editorial: Confronting the Past in Tunisia](#)

An editorial in the *New York Times* reported that since last year, Tunisia's Truth and Dignity Commission has been harrowing accounts of torture suffered by thousands of Tunisians over nearly six decades. It said, "This month, the commission will begin public hearings. The challenge will be ensuring that they lead to justice for victims and accountability for the guilty."

[The National: Tunisia Begins to Reconcile itself with its Grim Past](#)

Published in *The National*, this article discussed the lessons that Tunisia can learn from South Africa's experience in national reconciliation. The article argued that the process will be difficult but the Truth and Dignity Commission's work "carries with it the last hopes for the 2011 Arab uprisings." The article concluded that "the commission might be the best way for the Tunisian government to entrench its historic march towards democracy, where accountability and justice are protected."

[NATO and Tunisia Reaffirm Willingness to Deepen Cooperation](#)

Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy Ambassador Thrasyvoulos Terry Stamatopoulos paid an official visit to Tunisia in the framework of the Mediterranean Dialogue partnership. Ambassador Stamatopoulos and his Tunisian interlocutors discussed the implementation of the NATO-Tunisia Individual Partnership and Cooperation Program, which covers areas such as the fight against terrorism, civil emergency planning, defense reform and defense planning, military cooperation, cyber defense, public diplomacy and science for peace and security.

[Foreign Policy: Time to engage with Tunisia](#)

Published on the Swedish *Foreign Policy News* website, the article discussed how Sweden and Tunisia have organized a Sustainable Infrastructure Forum in Tunis, as a follow-up to Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström's official visit in February, marking a new era in Swedish-Tunisian relations. The forum brought together Tunisian and Swedish companies providing products and solutions related to infrastructure and transport. Swedish companies have a long history in this Mediterranean country, and they currently employ more than 5,000 Tunisians. The forum was opened by Amel Azzouz of Ennahdha.

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[Invest in Tunisia, Join the Growing Success](#)

Tunisia's 17th Investment Forum was held on June 11-12 at El Mouradi Gammarth Hotel in Tunis. The Forum's theme was "Invest in Tunisia, Join the Growing Success," and it focused on the "pressing need to consolidate the pillars of the new period": increasing Tunisia's competitiveness and regaining investors' confidence. The Forum brought together individuals from nearly 50 countries, representing regional and international economic and financial organizations and institutions.

Social Media

- [@EnnahdhaParty Jun 16](#)
#Ennahdha President with #EU ambassador Laura Baeza to discuss #Tunisia developments & prospects in neighbouring #Libya
- [@SaïdaOunissi Jun 10](#)
With ambassador @HamishCowell yesterday and MPs @ImenBenMohamed & @Ali_Laarayedh.
Great speech in Arabic & English :)
- [@EnnahdhaParty Jun 7](#)
#Ghannouchi : We greet with pride the people of the great city of #SidiBouzid, birthplace of #Tunisia's revolution
- [@EnnahdhaParty Jun 6](#)
#Ennahdha President speaking at Party 34th anniversary conference #Tunisia #Tunisie #Ghannouchi
- [@EnnahdhaParty Jun 5](#)
#Tunisia PM Habib Essid addresses Assembly to present report on first 100 days of his government and programme for next phase
- [UK in Tunisia @UKinTunisia Jun 3](#)
Since 2011 #UnitedKingdom stood side by side with #Tunisia to support democratic transition. Keep an eye on our channels to know how #APfacts



Profile of the Week: Ameer Larayedh

Ameer Larayedh is a Tunisian politician and member of Ennahdha Party. Born on March 24, 1965 he studied at Medenine high school and was excluded from school twice due to his student activism. He obtained his literary Baccalaureate from Tataouine then graduated in Sociology from the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences of Tunis. During his studies, he was active in student politics and was President of the administrative commission of the UGTE – the General Union for Tunisian Students and member of its Higher Committee for the organization of the national congress.

He went into exile in France after graduating due to the heavy crackdown on political activists in the 1980s. Upon his return to Tunisia in February 2011 following the revolution, he was elected into the National Constituent Assembly in October 2011 for the constituency of France 1.

In 2012, Ameer Larayedh became head of the Political Section within Ennahdha Party's Executive Bureau. In 2013 he became President of the Political Bureau and in 2014 a member of Ennahdha's Executive Bureau in charge of the national dialogue.

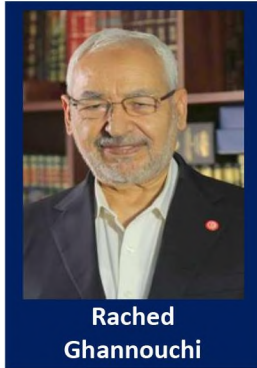
He was elected into the Assembly of the People's Representatives in October 2014 in the constituency of Medenine. He chairs the Commission on Industry, Energy, Natural Resources, Infrastructure and Environment, and is a member of the Commission on Administrative Reform, Good Governance, the Fight against Corruption and Control and Management of Public Funds.

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A word from Rached Ghannouchi, President, Ennahdha Party



Rached Ghannouchi on progress in Tunisia:

34 years ago on June 6, 1981, the Ennahdha Movement publicly declared itself a national political body, expressing the aspirations of a section of Tunisia, and representing a critical event in Tunisia's modern history. This was then followed by over two decades of persecution, as the forces of liberation confronted an authoritarian regime accustomed to persecuting its political opponents through repression and violence.

Despite this persecution, the movement managed to preserve its moderate thought, and the movement changed its name to the Ennahdha (Renaissance) Movement instead of the "Islamic Tendency Movement," a sign of our evolution of thought.

Since then Ennahdha has become a symbol of wisdom and responsibility, and the consensual democracy that has become inextricably linked to Tunisia. Tunisia has made some incredible progress in the last few years, and it is important to look to the past to understand how much work has been made to get us where we are today. However, with much work still to do after the revolution we must all look to preserve the State, and never allow it to collapse.

Central to this is the decentralization of power that is currently underway. The revolution was a success in the way that it ousted an authoritarian regime, but it is important that this is turned into wealth, which can be felt throughout the country as not all internal regions have had the development they deserve and are living through strikes and pickets for legitimate demands.

In order to realize this, it is our aim to empower all Tunisians through local governance, and develop the long-marginalized regions of Tunisia. That way Tunisia will continue to grow from strength to strength whilst continuing to represent a model of democracy for the rest of the region.

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ATTACHMENT QUESTION 15(a)

15 (a). Disbursements - Monies

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? YES

(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? NO

Ennahdha Party

Business Meals	272
Airfare	7,721
Media Monitoring	30
Publication/Subscriptions	5
Local Transportation	138
Grand Total	8,166